

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND
China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On January 6th, at Shanghai, the wife of Mr. DAVID LANDALE, of a daughter.
On the 10th inst. at "Cragside" The Peak, the wife of A. H. SKELTON, of a son.
On the 12th inst. at Victoria Hospital, Mrs. A. RAMSAY, of a son.

DEATH.

On January 5th, at Shanghai, EMILY, the beloved mother of CHARLES LEBURG, aged 74 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The *Lutzu* with the German Mail arrived on the 15th inst.
The French Mail of the 18th Dec., arrived per s.s. *Polynesian* on the 18th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. E. Gordon Lowder, of the I.M.C., is making a tour of inspection of all the Custom houses.

The Government of India have intimated that not more than 13,600 chests of Malwa opium shall be exported in the calendar year 1909.

Shen Chia-peng, the High Commissioner who compiles legal codes, is stated to have decided to adopt British laws in compiling the commercial code.

H. I. M. the Emperor of Japan telegraphed a message of sympathy to M. Fallieres, President of the French Republic, on hearing of the recent attack on his person.

Lt.-Colonel G. E. Pereira, C.M.G., D.S.O., Military Attaché in Peking, whose term of service in China expired on December 31, 1908, is proceeding home via Hongkong.

Prince Tsai Tze has drawn up an estimate of the expenses of the Liang Kwan, Liang-Kiang, Honan and Min-Che Provinces, for the purposes of the reformed Navy next year, and has presented it to the Prince Regent.

The Chinese Government has issued new regulations for the examination of telegrams with the object of stopping the revolutionaries from using the telegraph service as they have hitherto done, for the dissemination of their ideas.

It has been ascertained, that the upkeep of the Summer Palace at Peking has cost about two million taels per annum. As the Empress Dowager does not desire to occupy the Palace, the Prince Regent has decided to substantially reduce this expense to the State.

The Japanese Resident at Seoul has recently permanently prohibited the publication of a Japanese paper there, named the *Keijo Shinbun*, on the ground that the paper recently printed series of articles prejudicial to the relations between Japan and Korea and injurious to public order and peace. The paper had been in existence about two years.

Sir Haviland de Sausmarez, Judge of H.B.M.'s Supreme Court for China and Korea, has recently undergone at Home a third operation for appendicitis, which, it is satisfactory to state, has proved more successful than the previous ones, and it is hoped that within a very short time he will be once again restored to good health. His leave of absence has been extended for a period of six months, and he is expected to return to Shanghai sometime in October.

In view of the discovery of plague in rats at Shanghai, Dr. F. W. Thompson of Hankow publishes an appeal to the community of Hankow to undertake a general campaign against rats throughout the concessions. No trace of plague has yet been found at Hankow, but in view of the present existence of rat plague at Shanghai and the constant steamship communication between the two ports, Dr. Thompson points out that the position of Hankow is one of anticipation and that prevention is better than cure.

The Prince Regent has decided to reform the Civil Service of China. New regulations are being drafted. At a recent conference with the High Ministers of State the Prince Regent raised the question of the appointment of the Viceroys and Governors of the provinces and His Imperial Highness is reported to have said that in future careful enquiries should be made into the age, parentage, character and career of all candidates for such important posts before recommending them to the Throne for appointment.

The closing of the second half of the opium shops in the Settlement of Shanghai which was effected with the close of the year passed off without trouble, and since then the various shop-keepers engaged in the trade have commenced establishing themselves in other businesses.

One of the Koreans who was charged with complicity in the murder at the San Francisco of Mr. D. W. Stevens, the Japanese Adviser at Seoul is reported in the latest San Francisco papers to have escaped from the city. One of the papers says:—"The escape of Chun is one of the most remarkable evasions of justice that has ever occurred in this city, in that it appears to have been occasioned by the neglect of the officers of the law, who for months after his disappearance have only now discovered that he is gone." It is ten months now since the murder was committed.

Judging that the destruction caused by the present earthquake in Italy will furnish much material for study, Professor Omori, the well-known Japanese seismologist is being sent to Italy. Investigation into the damage done to buildings, waterworks, and other engineering works at Messina and Reggio will prove very instructive to architects and engineers and accordingly an architect and a civil engineer will accompany Professor Omori. The party is expected to leave Tokyo on or about the 15th inst. for the scene of the calamity, travelling by the Siberian Railway.

Referring to the article which we recently reproduced from a London contemporary on the growing popularity of China tea, a Colombo contemporary says:—"As those in the know are well aware, China tea is given a fresh innings in the U.K. when the price of common Ceylon and Indian teas go up. This is inevitable. We do not see anything more in the 'boom.' This is borne out, too, by a diagram before us showing the deliveries of China tea for home consumption with relation to the quotation for good ordinary Indian and Ceylon pekoe souchong during the last ten years. The only year in which the deliveries of China tea did not fully respond, to the advance in the British-grown, common tea price was last year. If the China tea imports prove to be considerably higher this year it will be because it was making up for coming more slowly than usual."

The measures to be taken by the Hongkong Government to regulate the spitting habits of the Chinese have excited a good deal of interest in Indo-China and the Strait Settlements. The *Pinang Gazette* in a leading article on the subject remarks:—"One of the chief causes of mortality among the Straits Chinese is phthisis; taking one week at random, we find that sixteen persons died of this disease within Municipal limits during the seven days ending December 19th. It is an incontrovertible fact that the principal channel of transmission of phthisis is expectoration by infected persons. The efforts of the French public health authorities to reduce the mortality in France from this cause by checking the spitting habit have been crowned with success. Yet the local Chinese, who will benefit more than any other section of the community, if the disgusting and insanitary habit can be eradicated, apparently regard the Anti-Spitting Ordinance as a piece of down-right grandmotherly legislation, if not an unwarrantable interference with the liberty of the subject."

THE PROPOSED UNIVERSITY FOR HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, January 9th.)

His Excellency the GOVERNOR yesterday announced his intention to issue an appeal for funds for the endowment of a University in Hongkong, and the fate of the proposal, which has been much discussed in the Colony during the past twelve months, will be determined by the measure of support which the scheme receives from the general public. In the address he delivered at St. Stephen's College yesterday, His Excellency mentioned that the munificent offer made by Mr. H. N. MONY to provide buildings fully adequate for the needs of a University remains open for another six months, and, if at the end of that period an adequate endowment fund is in sight, he will commence to erect the buildings. The result of the appeal will be awaited with much interest not only in the Colony but far beyond. We are now-a-days hearing a good deal about universities for China. The Chinese Government itself has recently been giving evidence of an intention to establish universities on the Western model. Commissioners have been sent from Peking to Tokyo to report upon the Imperial University of Japan with a view to the establishment of a similar institution in the Chinese capital. It is also announced that next Spring the Chinese Government will be sending Commissioners to Germany to study the higher educational methods there with a view to the reorganisation of existing Chinese universities, so far as possible, on the German model. Then we have the German Government establishing a university at Kiaochau. "A High School for Chinese" it is to be called, but the German Government's intention is to create first a commercial high school as a basis for technical and medical schools and for institutes for political economy, forestry and agriculture to be founded later. The German Government is providing a sum of 600,000 marks (£30,000) for the erection of the school, and an annual appropriation of 150,000 (£7,500) for its maintenance. A subsidy has been promised by the Chinese Government, which has further shown its sympathy with the project by expressing its readiness to support the school by sending scholars to it. Then we are reminded by a London telegram which appears in another column of that more ambitious scheme which had its origin in the mind of Lord WILLIAM CECIL who has succeeded in getting the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to co-operate in furthering it. But neither of these schemes, should they all reach maturity, would appeal as strongly to students in South China as a University in Hongkong. A reputation has been acquired by the Colony in China as an educational centre, and the establishment of a University here would be certain to attract students from all parts of the Empire, but it should, of course, be primarily intended for the benefit of those who have passed through the schools of the Colony. We trust that the GOVERNOR's appeal, when it is issued, will meet with a response which will justify a decision to go forward with the scheme, for a university in Hongkong cannot but bring credit and renown to the Colony.

The Viceroy of Liang Kiang, Hunan and Hupah, Their Excellencies Tuan Fang and Chen Kwei Leing, have forwarded a memorial to the Prince Regent on the subject of financial reform. They propose to institute lotteries in those Provinces under careful restrictions, but the Prince Regent has not been pleased with the propositions.—Chinese Public Opinion.

YUAN SHIH KAI.

(Daily Press, January 11th.)

That the Regent, Prince CHUN, is both a strong man, and is determined to carry out the schemes of Reform foreshadowed by his brother, the late Emperor, has for some time been manifest, and is made more evident by the quiet way in which he has decided to relieve himself of the services of YUAN SHI-KAI. Dazzled by the fact that to YUAN SHI-KAI, acting in conjunction with the Yangtse Viceroys, is to be attributed the isolation of the insane Boxer movement within the immediate neighbourhood of Peking and Tientsin; and that this isolation of the movement practically saved the Empire, foreigners generally have been disposed to overrate the services of the late minister. In so doing they overlook the fact that it was mainly to YUAN SHI-KAI's betrayal of his master, the late Emperor, that the temporary success of the reactionary party in Peking, which was the true cause of the Boxer uprising, was entirely due. Of the part played in these transactions by the sometime Viceroy, no one now alive, with perhaps the exception of the "false" eunuch, LI LIENYING—knows so much as the Regent, and there is little reason to doubt that he has been well advised in his action. Earlier opinions as to the relations between YUAN SHI-KAI and the Regent were apparently based upon the report that YUAN had advocated the selection of Prince CHUN's son as the late Emperor's successor. There appears to have been but little, if any, truth in the report. At any rate, since the Boxer troubles the actions of YUAN SHI-KAI have been regarded with suspicion in many quarters. He is now described as treacherous. As a fact, to understand YUAN SHI-KAI's connection with those questionable transactions we must remember that the minister was a protégé of the late LI HUNG CHANG, and was intimately connected with his misdeeds. In September 1888, the late Emperor, for very good cause, dismissed with ignominy his unfaithful and disloyal minister; the Palace intrigue in pursuance of which the Emperor was practically deposed and imprisoned, and made to undergo every indignity possible to an offended and unscrupulous woman, was the consequence; and YUAN SHI-KAI was the man who acted the part of the betrayer of the secrets entrusted to him. That, knowing all this, the Regent should have little confidence in the man is little to be wondered at. As soon as LI had had his revenge, and was apparently aiming at still higher game, he fell foul of the EMPRESS DOWAGER, and was by her, to whom he felt he had himself given the power to show her ingratitude, sent down as Viceroy to the Liang Kwang; her real object, as LI himself well knew, being to get rid of him in Peking, where his presence boded no good. The outbreak of the Boxer émeute, and the insulation of Peking, seemed to LI to be likely to favour his interests, so as an act of insubordination, practically almost amounting to rebellion, without orders of any sort he hurried back to the North; evidently in order to be on the spot, in case of anything turning up. That he arrived too late to be in at the death was no fault of his, but was solely owing to the fact that the Foreign Powers had been too quick for him, and had taken possession of Peking, while the DOWAGER EMPRESS had fled, and had taken the EMPEROR with her, practically as a pawn to enable her to make terms. LI HUNG CHANG's ambitious projects, whatever they were, were, of course, completely frustrated by the turn events had taken; so

he threw himself, body and soul, into the arms of Russia; as apparently the best method of avenging himself on what he was pleased to consider an ungrateful country. It is a matter of history that he took on himself to sign what, if he had the power, would have been a virtual surrender of the Empire, and that he was only prevented by death from effecting complications which would have made the Emperor merely a minion of St. Petersburg. It is unlikely that his sole actuating motive in all this was the pay, which there is little doubt that he received regularly, and though covetousness was well known to have been one of his strongest impelling motives, it is unlikely that it was the only, or the main motive. This is fortunately now a thing of the past, and the conditions are not likely to return, so there is little use in discussing them; the fact, however, remains, and this no doubt has had considerable effect in forming the Regent's policy, that in these things YUAN SHI-KAI was more or less of a partaker, and though he probably was altogether (in the worst phases at all events) innocent of evil designs, the memory of them to the late EMPEROR's own brother cannot fail to be disagreeable.

Looking back, in the new light that present events are throwing on the story of KWANG SU's life, there is little doubt that when he took in hand the reform of the Empire he was actuated with the highest motives, and though in his youthful enthusiasm he may have employed not over wise tools for the work, there is equally little doubt that his intelligence was equal to the occasion, and that, had he been permitted to continue, the defects would have righted of themselves. The grief to the young Emperor caused by the premature disclosure of his plans was aggravated by the inhuman punishment meted out to those who had been merely obeying his command, and in comparing this with the present case we may notice the difference in the treatment meted out to the Ministers concerned. While the Ministers of Kwansu were hunted out and ignominiously beheaded with every aggravation of hatred and contempt, we find that the dismissal of YUAN SHI-KAI has been accompanied with the kindest regard to his feelings, and his past services are spoken of with kindness. He is, in fact, given an honourable retirement which, however resented mentally, he has had the grace to attend at Court and return thanks for. The augury is a good one for the future stability of the Government. Rumours, apparently concocted by foreigners unacquainted with Chinese ways, have been current for some months as to contemplated rebellion of YUAN SHI-KAI, and the danger that this would cause to the ruling House. One of the most remarkable things about the Chinese system of government is that, however bad it may seem in a foreigner's eyes, the higher officers of State have seldom been found openly turning rebel, and that only when the decay of the ruling House has forced them to take on their own shoulders the duties of administration. Even LI HUNG CHANG, absolutely without scruples of conscience to deter him, never contemplated such a step, knowing as he did that every official in the Empire however himself discontented, would affect to look on it with horror. Even stronger is the case with YUAN SHI-KAI. It is quite true, more than any one else he is responsible for the reorganisation of the Army, so far as it has gone. Possibly individuals would like to take up his cause, but no one knows better than himself that he has no following such as a member of the Imperial family, or even a rank outsider who had got temporary

command of the public ear, might expect to have. All his good deeds hitherto, so far from telling in his favour, would be found to score against him. In addition to all this, if not actually more important, is that jealousy would prevent any provincial officer of any standing from joining him, and as the provincial officials, almost in spite of YUAN's efforts to centralise, have still considerable say in all military affairs he would find them to a man opposed to any such pretensions.

Individually YUAN has never in any way evinced any disloyal tendency. It is quite possible that the worst of his overt actions, — his betrayal of the late Emperor, — was dictated by a very creditable fear he was going too far under the inspiration of untried advisers; there is little reason to suspect even that he had any idea of the consequences that under the aegis of an unscrupulous, yet hysterical, woman afterwards arose, were possible or likely. So we may acquit him of this, the worst charge that has been made against him. At the same time it is easy to see that he and the new Regent could never pull together for the benefit of the country, and that the treatment of his late brother, which in his mind must ever be associated with the overt act of YUAN, would always interfere to prevent any cordial co-operation of the two. In such a state of affairs the question would be bound to rise as to whether YUAN, or the Regent were to become the master of the State; and it is very evident even after the short experience of a few weeks, that Prince CHUN has both the ability, mental and bodily, and the intention to be himself, under responsible ministers, it is true, the head of the Government. No doubt, after a succession of debauched or incapable rulers, such as China has had to submit to for a century, this is the wisest course in the interests of all, governors and governed alike.

PLAGUE RATS AT SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, January 12th.)

The discovery of forty-nine rats proved dead of plague at Shanghai in the course of a fortnight, last month, has naturally caused anxiety to the Health Authorities of the Settlement, as well as to the authorities in the ports up the Yangtze. So far as is known, there are no records to show that the Yangtze valley has ever been swept by plague in epidemic form, "or of any records of even isolated cases having occurred, with the exception of infected persons who, from time to time, have been removed from steamers entering Shanghai from outside ports." But the absence of records is not necessarily conclusive of the absence of plague in any part of China. When the first epidemic broke out in Hongkong, in 1894, Dr. Lowson caused careful inquiries to be made on this subject, and the result was that after months of diligent searching, Mr. DYER BALL, who was deputed to make the investigation, had to report that Chinese history contained no reference to any epidemic of plague. How, and by what means, bubonic plague was introduced into Hongkong no man can positively say. Prior to 1894 plague was unknown in Hongkong. It had practically been endemic in Pakhoi for over twenty years, but the only occasion when it had been epidemic was ten years before the appearance of the plague in Hongkong. It was early in February 1894 that an epidemic began at Canton, and it broke out in Hongkong in May. In those four months there was no plague at Pakhoi, and it was, therefore, assumed that it was intro-

duced into Hongkong from Canton. Exactly how it was introduced baffled investigation, though it has long since been generally accepted that rats from the shipping formed the means of communicating it from one port to the other, and the authorities in their wisdom decreed that the ropes by which ships were tied to a wharf should be provided with phlanges to prevent rats getting ashore from the ship, as if rats preferred walking the tight-rope to the broad plank of the gangway. The fact has to be faced that it is impossible to prevent rats getting ashore from a ship at a wharf, if they are so minded. They may either walk or run ashore, or they may be conveyed ashore in cargo. There can be little doubt, however, that it is by this means that plague is spread. If any additional proof of the fact were needed we may obtain it from Shanghai. When on the 8th ult. two dead rats found near the wharves at Shanghai were ascertained to have died of plague, a systematic search for dead rats was made in all the sanitary districts of the Settlement, and of the forty-nine (out of 1,329) that were found to have died of plague, nearly all were found in the neighbourhood of the wharves. The Health Officer, therefore, concludes that there is little doubt that the introduction of plague has been effected through the channel where the preventive measures taken by the Port Health Authority have been weakest, namely those for preventing the introduction of rats by ship from plague-infected ports. Consequently this unpleasant discovery led to the formulation of potential measures and a plan of campaign which, we hope, will be successful in preserving Shanghai from a scourge which has cost the Colony of Hongkong in the last fourteen years many thousand lives and several millions of dollars. It is interesting to note that Dr. STANLEY regards the cat as the most successful agent for the extermination of rats, and says that by cats alone it should be possible to keep houses rat free, and, as a direct result, plague free. Every householder, therefore, is recommended to keep one or more cats in his house. This is an endorsement of the new method of combatting plague in Hongkong. We understand that the advice given by the Sanitary Board in this connection is being generally followed, and in the coming plague season we trust a considerable improvement may confidently be anticipated upon the mortality returns of last year, when plague was more prevalent in the Colony than it had been since 1903.

WHAT IS A MERCHANT?

(Daily Press, January 13th.)

What is a merchant? The question is one which often comes up for discussion in the Far East where every man who imports or exports a bale of goods designates himself a "general merchant," and speaks grandiloquently of his "firm." But much the same state of things obtains elsewhere, even in the City of London where "almost everybody calls himself a merchant." In the City of London "merchants" have hitherto been exempt from sitting on common juries, but under a new Act a fresh list had to be made and the justices at the Guildhall Quarter Sessions last month were called upon to answer the question: "What is a merchant?" The Jury Act of 1870 provided that, amongst others, any person who was "a banker or merchant" should be exempted from service on common juries. Accordingly last month, a firm trading as Colonial merchants claimed to be on the special jury

list in virtue of their business as "merchants," the rent they pay (£115 a year) when divided between the partners being insufficient to exclude them from the petty jury list. Hence arose the question as to what constitutes a "merchant." Counsel quoted authorities. First he took the dictionaries. The edition of WEBSTER of 1856 describes a merchant as "a man who traffics in, or carries on, trade with foreign countries, or who exports and imports goods and sells them wholesale." The 1902 edition defines a merchant as "one who traffics on a large scale specially with foreign countries, a trafficker, a trader." JOHNSON'S dictionary says a trader "is one who traffics to remote countries"; while the Standard edition of 1906 describes a merchant as "a person who buys and sells commodities as a business, and for profit, especially one who has a place of sale and stock of goods, a trader." As one of the Justices remarked, the definition seems to grow wider and wider as we get nearer to-day. Baron BRAMWELL, in 1872 laid it down that "a merchant of, or in, an article is one who buys and sells it and not the manufacturer selling it." According to this legal definition any man who buys or sells may claim to be a merchant. But lawyers, like doctors, differ, and as opposed to Baron BRAMWELL's definition, STROUD'S Judicial Dictionary was quoted as saying: "Everyone who buys and sells is not a merchant, only those who traffic in the way of commerce by importation or exportation. Bankers and such as deal by exchange are properly called merchants." That is a definition which, we think, fits the English conception of a merchant, but in Scotland, as well as in the United States a merchant may be "one who keeps a shop or store for the sale of goods; a shopkeeper." Etymologically such a use of the word would seem to be justifiable and general practice must be regarded as the only authority for the restriction of the use of the term "merchant" to large wholesale dealers. The Justices at the Guildhall Quarter Sessions, while they admitted the claim of the appellants in the case before them, did not venture to lay down any definition for the guidance of the officials charged with the duty of compiling the Jury lists, but we gather, from the tone of the observations made by the Justices in the course of the case, that they did not regard shopkeepers and petty traders as "merchants" within the meaning of the Act.

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE WITH CHINA.

(Daily Press, 14th January.)

As a rule, when a minister at a Court comes prominently before the public it is in connection with some indiscretion or other; it being the established rule in diplomacy that a Minister's opinions shall be the sole property of his Government, and shall not be exhibited by word or deed, unless under instructions from his own Foreign Office. Owing to very peculiar circumstances, China has been more or less looked upon as an exception to the rule, and Ministers at Peking have at times expressed their own private ideas in language which can hardly be considered diplomatic, especially when the subject was the delinquency of some unfortunate merchant or chamber of commerce who had ventured to have private opinions respecting some pet scheme of one of the British Minister for the time being. No Minister to China has been less obnoxious to the besetting sin of the Peking Minister than Sir JOHN JORDAN, the present

occupant of the post, and no minister has of recent times enjoyed so much of the confidence of his nationals in China; it is therefore with considerable regret that we find him—probably under express orders from the Foreign Office—seeking to interfere with the undoubted function of the new Regency in dismissing a Minister of the Crown. It is doubtless true that the dismissed minister, YUAN SHI-KAI, as practically giving tone to the relations of China with the outer Powers, has vastly improved on the methods of his predecessor, and has brought China into line with the greater European Powers. The incident of his dismissal might very well then have become the subject of a private remonstrance with the Prince Regent, but it is hardly becoming that at the present stage, unless we are prepared to establish a quasi-protectorate over China, that it should be made the subject of a public interference. Doubtless Sir JOHN JORDAN feels this himself, and has been made to occupy a disagreeable position through the influence at the Foreign Office of some over zealous non-official adviser. YUAN SHI KAI, it is surely well to remember before proceeding to the length of a practically public reprimand of an independent government, is not the only man in China capable of conducting China's foreign affairs; and it would have been wiser before administering the rebuff, to have ascertained who was likely to be made his successor. Indeed, as in commenting on the dismissal on the 11th instant, we pointed out, there are many equally competent statesmen in China at the present moment, with a far cleaner reputation than YUAN. We showed in that article why with all his ability for administration, there were many things in YUAN's past record which could not but prevent his being a *persona grata* to the present Prince Regent; and these things, it is also well to remember, brought him at the time into not altogether pleasant contact with the foreign Powers. It is quite true that YUAN atoned, so far as the Powers are concerned, for these errors, but it is by no means certain that he succeeded equally in persuading the late Emperor of the entire purity of his conduct, and it is one of the most reassuring points in the Regency of his brother that he has so far shown a desire, avoiding his mistakes of immaturity, to follow in the path of reform too hastily attempted by the late KWANG SU. That only by such measures can China be extricated from the slough of despond into which the misrule of the last century had plunged her is acknowledged by all, even in China herself, with the sole exception of a band of reactionaries who have been battenning on the miseries of the country; and it would have been far wiser on the part of the British Foreign Office, before committing itself to an unfriendly course, to have ascertained the real inwardness of the situation. For obvious reasons we have not considered ourselves called upon to adjudge the rights and wrongs of YUAN SHI-KAI's dismissal as between him and Prince CHUN; these being matters that concern themselves personally; we only reviewed the case sufficiently far to show that there was some reason for the action without calling into the matter the too frequently obtruded cry that it was "anti-foreign." For ourselves we do not believe that it in any measure partook of this nature; the questions at the moment of the greatest importance to China are not those in connection with foreign affairs; and fortunately for the Empire there are at the moment no important foreign questions at issue. No country either desires or is in a position to undertake an aggressive attitude

against China; the desire may linger, but unless China herself by some mad action should provoke hostility, she has a fair field before her. She has not even the embarrassment of having schemes for her internal benefit thrust from without on her. Foreign nations have at the moment quite enough to do to look after their own mismanaged finances, and have no inducement, nor indeed ability to throw their surpluses at China, whether the latter be willing or not. How long the respite may last, it is, of course, impossible to predict, but the fact remains that for China it is very real, and very agreeable. China's momentary task, then, is to take advantage of the respite to put her own financial affairs in order. On the 30th ultimo we mentioned incidentally that Peking was at last beginning to learn the lesson. Now this is a subject which the Chinese as a nation are quite capable of grasping, when once they have mastered the initial difficulties. Those difficulties arose from the defects in the fundamental basis of government which led to a complete severance of interests between governed and governors. This difference of interests is not confined to China, but prevails wherever satrapial government exists; and as China is the one country that has carried this system of delegated control to the furthest limit, so she has found the separation wider. The agitation about representative government, and provincial assemblies is the direct issue of the coming change, and it would seem wiser to permit China to take her own time about it; at all events all international experience goes to show that a nation must be left, like an individual, very much to its own resources to work out its salvation. Now this is the very thing that the present action of the Ministers at Peking is more likely to hinder than to advance. Professedly they declare they desire a strong China, practically by attempting to dictate a choice of ministers they weaken the executive in its most essential point. China is apparently desirous of attacking abuses which none but a single-minded and single handed executive can attempt, especially as they are of old growth; the introduction of a system of divided responsibility would, of course, render all such projects hopeless. A much worse minister than YUAN SHI KAI with a full sense of his responsibility, would be far better than the best of all, if the sense of responsibility were extinguished.

THE INTERNATIONAL OPIUM COMMISSION.

(Daily Press, January 15th.)

We reproduced a few days ago the text of the instructions given by the Government of the United States to the delegates appointed to represent that country at the International Opium Commission which begins its deliberations at Shanghai next month. The British delegates, Sir EDWARD GREY informed the House of Commons, are being furnished with instructions on similar lines. It appears from these instructions that the sole purpose of the Commission is, not to investigate the claim which China makes for the suppression of the trade in foreign opium, but simply and solely to arrive at some basis of common action "for the gradual suppression of opium cultivation, traffic and use within the respective Eastern possessions of the Governments represented on the Commission, thus assisting China in her purpose of eradicating the evil from her empire." Now, if the Powers are agreed that the evils in China are so gigantic as they are represented to be in the Chinese

Imperial Edicts and that it is their duty to help China to eradicate the mischief what use is there to travel beyond the usual channels of diplomatic action? Great Britain relying on the good faith and sincerity of the Chinese Government in its announced intention to suppress the cultivation of the poppy and to suppress opium-smoking in China, has already co-operated to the extent of annually reducing the export of opium from India to China. India has thereby been sacrificing about a quarter of a million pounds sterling a year in revenue since this order came into force. What loss has China suffered in her revenue from native opium? We hope the Commission may be placed in possession of that information. If China has effected a proportional reduction in her own production and consumption of opium, Indian exports will continue to be reduced. In the course of a few years the trade will be automatically extinguished. What need, then, is there for this International Commission "to assist China?" Excepting Great Britain, we believe no other Power is represented on the Commission which is concerned with the cultivation of opium or countenance its consumption. In Japan, as well as in the Philippines, opium smoking has long been under the ban of the law, and we are unable to see in what further direction these Powers could do anything to assist China. With the practical support which India already accords and will continue to accord, if China's promises are fulfilled, China ought to be able to work out her own salvation. In a few years the Chefoo Agreement, so far as it relates to opium, would become a dead letter, and no harm then would be done by the abrogation of the agreement, placing China in the position to prohibit, if she wished, a trade which had ceased to exist. So far as the British Colonies are concerned we see no justification for further interference. The Straits Commission found that the vast majority of smokers indulge to an extent that may properly be called moderate, and that excessive indulgence occurs only in isolate instances. They further found that there has been no increase in the prevalence of the habit, (and in this they included use in moderation and use in excess, during the past decade. Nor did they find it proved that the evils arising from the use of opium have in any way increased during the past decade. All this is equally true in Hongkong, and, like the *Straits Times*, we should be prepared to seriously question whether there exists any justification whatever for interfering with personal liberty as far as the Crown Colonies are concerned. Opium is not, like alcoholic drink, which will probably take its place in China, an active agent in the propagation of violence and crime. The Bishop of London told the House of Lords recently that 93 per cent of the inmates of the prisons of Great Britain were there in consequence of drink, and the Lord Chancellor said a Judge of Assize had told him that 11 out of 12 cases that came before him were directly due to drink and the 12th indirectly, while the Lunacy Commission in their last report state that 22 per cent of the men confined in the lunatic asylums were there directly through drink "to say nothing of the multitudes who owe their lunacy to hereditary disease caused by drink." What is true of England in this connection is more or less true of other countries where alcoholic drink is largely used as a stimulant. The drink bill of the United Kingdom amounts to £166,000,000 a year, People reading the publications of the

Anti-Opium League would imagine that the vice of opium in China is infinitely worse than the drink evil in England, whereas any one who is in a position to make the comparison cannot but be amazed at the suggestion. The International Commission appears to us totally unnecessary. If China is convinced that opium is a source of great evil, it is for her to apply the remedies, and having already obtained the co-operation of the Indian Government she has, it seems to us, all that she could hope for or desire. The remedy for the evil is entirely in China's hands. If the Chinese Government is unable to enforce its decrees within its own dominions, nothing that the Powers can do in their own territories will avail to help her.

JAPANESE EMIGRATION TO AMERICA.

(Daily Press, December 16th.)

Recent telegrams indicate that public attention in the United States and in Japan is being again focussed on the vexed problem of Japanese immigration into the States on the Pacific Slope of America. The Californian Legislature has introduced a measure aiming at the exclusion of Japanese from the public schools of the State, providing for the segregation of both Japanese and Chinese, and imposing other restrictions hurtful and offensive to the dignity of Japan. Only a year or two ago, when public sentiment in California was aroused over the continually increasing influx of Japanese, the Government of Japan, in order to avoid ill-feeling between the two nations, voluntarily resolved to forego a privilege to which Japan was entitled by treaty, and placed a restriction on emigration to America. But recently the view has been advanced in the Japanese Press that the time has arrived when the removal of this inconvenient regulation should be demanded "on grounds of equity and international morality," for the denial to Japan of the enjoyment of the full privileges of the Treaty is regarded as unfair and a slight to the nation. When consequently the recent agreement made between Japan and the United States was published, there was undisguised dissatisfaction in Japan over the omission of any reference to the emigration question. In one of the leading papers the Government was taunted with having laboured to secure a statement of policy in regard to matters which scarcely called for a formal declaration, while the one problem demanding immediate attention had been completely ignored. Other papers, however, recognised that any agreement dealing with the immigration problem in America would require to be ratified by the Senate, and this was put forward as the reason for the omission of the matter from the recently published agreement. At the same time it was announced unofficially, but with a confidence which gave the impression of official inspiration, that a separate Protocol on the subject was under negotiation. This, if it be a fact, suggests that President ROOSEVELT had a very special reason for denouncing the action of the Californian Legislature. The President described the measure not only as "a piece of folly" but as an "iniquity." Whether he regarded it as iniquitous solely on account of the fact that the legislation would justify Japan in accusing the United States of "bad faith," or whether the term is intended to cover merely the policy of segregation, the brevity of the telegram does not enable us to decide. The great argument which is considered to justify America in excluding Japanese, is that they do not "assimilate." A recent

French writer on the subject declares that "between the yellow and white races there cannot, there must not, be any assimilation; the Bible and SPENCER have so decreed," and he quotes the Hon. E. A. HAYES, representing California in the House of Representatives, as saying — "The ministers of all our religions proclaim on the marriage altar this divine doctrine, 'What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.' It is an equally divine doctrine that 'What God has put asunder, let no man join together.' The finger of the Almighty has emphasized in plain characters the differences of colour, of caste, of feeling, of life, of literature, of geographic position—in short, in all ways, the necessity of keeping the races of humanity separate." And to this M. AUBERT, whom we have already quoted, adds:—"Their happiness will be better assured, if they dwell on the continents assigned to them by omniscient providence than if they are transplanted to other continents in the interests of lucre. The yellow races can no more change their skin than can negroes; the leopard cannot change his spots. The Japanese, by their physique, their religion, their age-long traditions, their ideas on family life, are quite different from the whites." It is such arguments as these that influence public opinion in America, but is is very curious to see the argument of geographical distribution used in defence of "a white America." The emigration from all parts of the world to North America has been one of the most remarkable facts in contemporary history. In a single century the population of the United States has grown from five millions to eighty millions, thanks to immigration from other continents "in the interests of lucre." A recent writer on this subject has pointed out that in the beginning of the nineteenth century the arrivals were chiefly from the British Isles, and in the first place from Ireland. Towards the second half of the century the greater portion was furnished by Germany and Scandinavia. Recently, and specially during the last few years, the principal centre of emigration has been the Carpathian district, Galicia, Hungary, and the various Slav districts. From Transylvania the movement spread to Roumania and across the great plains of Hungary to the south into Slavonia and Croatia, and if the current continues to follow the same course the Balkan States may be expected in the near future to contribute their full quota. But America draws the line at Asiatics. Some years ago many of the arguments now used against Asiatic immigration were used against the Slavs. It was said of them that they would not assimilate with the settled population, but the Slavonic races have shown a peculiar aptitude for assimilation and the result, have been entirely satisfactory. And when we take the evidence afforded by the Eurasians in Japan we can find small support for the American view that assimilation is impossible in the case of the Japanese. Then there is the argument that the low rates at which the Japanese are prepared to work displaces white labour. This is, indeed, the principal inspiration of the anti-immigration movement on the Pacific Slope, and the Japanese Government may be assumed to have recognised the force of the argument when it restricted the migration of Japanese subjects for America. The reply to the underliving argument is that experience shows that the scale of living among Japanese settlers tends to level up, not down, and that the Japanese settling in America

speedily adopt a standard of living equal to that of the Americans. If all the immigrants from Japan had already acquired a standard of living equal to that of the Americans, and requiring the same wages to support it, the problem would be solved; but until the "Westernisation" of Japan has developed to that extent, the immigration of Japanese is bound to be a constant source of trouble.

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Aye, it is quite true. The weather is man's conversational god. Everywhere during the week one heard little else but growls about the weather, and even the folks up topside did not appreciate the mist which hid them from the vulgar gaze. That reminds me, that somebody "wot knows" has predicted that we are in for two months of the weather we sampled last week for four days. In other words we are likely to have plenty of rain instead of the cold crisp weather which we expect at this season. That looks as if we shall have greater use for waterproofs than overcoats.

Few of us realised that Lady Lugard was so ill as she has been, and it was with something like a shock that we read His Excellency's statement that his wife had been dangerously ill and was still in a serious condition. Fortunately later news is more hopeful and I am sure it is no mean platitude when I say we all wish her a speedy recovery.

So we are to lose Mr. Brackenbury very soon. He leaves for Central Africa on the 23rd instant. If he makes as great a name for himself as his uncle, Sir Frederick, did in Africa his promotion will be assured.

The American Baseball players returned from Manila on Friday and left for the United States the next day. They go home with interesting views on sport in the Orient, and I have no doubt the inevitable interviewers at San Francisco will obtain some good "copy." I can, however, anticipate their comments on cricket at Hongkong. "Say," said one of the visitors the other day, "Cricket is a great game in Hongkong, ain't it? Why the only bally feller on the ground who does anything at all is the bar boy! Waal, Igness and calculate that in the States—" "You'll spoil it by further comment" interrupted one of the listeners.

Sport with the professional baseballer in the States is an excessively serious business. I understand that no member of the team which came out on this picnic earns less than \$500 gold a month during the baseball season, and some of them receive over \$1,000.

After the unsatisfactory debates in the Legislative Council and Sanitary Board it was interesting to notice an old Chinese woman (who appeared to have solved the problem of the hour), draw a small bottle from the folds of her dress and spat into it. On enquiry I ascertained from the old dame that she had adopted this means some years ago on being informed that she was suffering from phthisis. I do not offer this as a solution of the spitting nuisance, but it struck me that it would result in benefit to the community if the public dispensaries could persuade those phthisical patients who receive treatment at their hands to refrain from spitting in the streets and use a small bottle instead. It certainly is a new use for the bottle.

What a surprising success the Corinthian Yacht Club have made of their concern! It looks as if they are going to eclipse the older club. The inauguration of the new one design "Hayward Hays" has been a huge success and will no doubt give a flip to yachting in these waters. Lord Dudley, at the opening cruise of the Australian Yacht Club, remarked that the secret of most yachting clubs' success was one design classes and his opinion is borne out in this Colony. Unless the Royal Hongkong Club adopts this or some other scheme to waken up their members the new pavilion is likely to become something of a white elephant.

Imagine a meeting of missionaries being asked to sing "Oh Gold, our help in ages past." Although it may be quite true, we do not associate such candour with our missionary friends; yet the incident, I am told, is one of those things not mentioned by the press which happened at a recent college function. Doubtless they will not risk receiving such a shock again at the hands of their Chinese typists.

At one of those missionary meetings of which I have been speaking the visitors were handed a long sheet of paper printed in Chinese. Apparently it set forth the objects of the meeting, and to most of those present it was unintelligible. Still it was not altogether useless, for after holding one end up to her nose and the other stretched out at arm's length, a lady turned to a friend and exclaimed "Why, it is a yard long." She seemed quite pleased that she had found a new measure.

Although the Hongkong Football Club is to some extent overshadowed by the League at present, there is no doubt that it still stands for sport. What more magnanimous action could one have wished than the course it adopted in handing over the cup presented by Mrs. David to the shield committee to be awarded the runners up. I hope they will continue to give the lead in sporting circles.

Hongkong knows something of the walking craze round the island and will therefore be able to appreciate the following comment taken from a Penang paper. This correspondent writes:—"I have read a paragraph in your issue of the 21st Dec. to the effect that a gentleman connected with a local firm of brokers walked round the Island of Penang yesterday in rather less than sixteen hours. I have been trying to think it out and it worries me a good deal. Why did he walk round the Island in rather less than sixteen hours? As it was an Island he was walking around he had to come back to the same place as he started from, hadn't he? then why did he not stop where he was for the sixteen hours? A friend of mine suggests that somebody he had sold shares to was chasing him, or that his wife was out playing bridge and he was dummy. Another man says perhaps he had forgotten where he had left his cigarette case and was out looking for it. My wife says that if one walks round in a circle, it is impossible to remember the exact spot on the circle you started from, and that is why he did it. Will you please let me know the real reason so that I can get to sleep again."

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONGKONG.

The total amount subscribed by Peak residents as a Christmas box for division among the employees of the Peak Tramway was \$443.

At the Magistracy on Jan. 12 Mr. J. H. Kemp fined a houseboy \$10 for wantonly ill-using a dog by pouring hot water over it. The prosecutor was Mr. C. H. Gale of No. 1, Des Voeux Villa, the Peak.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Lieut. H. W. Green, 2nd battalion, The Buffs, as the military member of the committee for the Wongneicheong and Queen's Recreation Grounds, vice Lieut. G. R. Home.

The Board of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. have renominated the following gentlemen to serve for a further period of three years:—Hon. H. W. Slade, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Dr. A. P. Wilder, Rev. F. T. Johnson and Mr. A. S. D. Conland. They have also nominated Mr. A. H. Harris and Mr. J. R. Wood to fill vacancies.

A good number of music lovers attended Herr Premyslav's violin recital in St. Andrew's Hall on Wednesday. His playing was greatly appreciated, as he revealed a wonderful mastery of the instrument, and his work was finished and artistic. Its distinguishing feature was the richness of tone. The Virtuoso was assisted at the piano by Mrs. J. Cochrane, with whom he was also associated in the three opening selections from Grieg. Herr Premyslav responded to two encores.

The annual Flower and Vegetable Show of the Hongkong Horticultural Society is announced for the 26th and 27th February.

Mr. James Scott, senior partner in the firm of Messrs Butterfield and Swire, left Hongkong on the 9th inst. for Shanghai by the steamer *Mongolia*. Mr. Scott was accompanied by Mrs. Scott, and his son Mr. Colin Scott.

Lady Lugard has been seriously ill since the new year, and last week her condition was considered somewhat dangerous. Dr. Jordan's reports during the last few days have been more reassuring, but her ladyship's condition is not yet entirely satisfactory.

The necessary papers from the Viceroy of Canton in connection with the application for the surrender of Leung Tsat to the Chinese Authorities on a charge of armed robbery, having been handed to Mr. J. H. Kemp, his Worship on Jan. 13 committed the defendant to jail pending the decision of His Excellency the Governor regarding his surrender.

The extract of meteorological observations made at the Hongkong Observatory during the month of December 1908, shows that we had an average maximum temperature during that month of 67.9 deg., and an average minimum temperature of 59.5 degrees. The rainfall for the month was 4.285 inches, (which appears to be a record for 25 years), and we had 101.7 hours of sunshine.

Mr. A. N. Huke who for the past seventeen years has been associated with the bookselling business of Messrs. W. Brewer & Co., of Hongkong and Shanghai, severed his connection with the firm at the end of the year and left with Mrs. Huke for England on Jan. 12 by the Blue Funnel steamer *Theseus*. Coming out in 1891, Mr. Huke was attached to the Shanghai branch for four and a half years and then having been admitted to partnership, he came down to Hongkong where he has since remained in charge of the business here. Mr. and Mrs. Huke have a wide circle of friends in the Colony and many were present at the wharf to bid them *bon voyage*.

Returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st December, 1908, as certified by the managers of the respective banks, are as under:—

BANKS.	AVERAGE AMOUNT	SPECIE IN RESERVE.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	\$3,735,318	\$2,800,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	16,776,952	13,000,000
National Bank of China.	73,056	Nil.
Total,	\$20,585,326	15,800,000

At the prize presentation at Queen's College on Jan. 15 there was on view on the platform on which His Excellency the Governor was seated a massive silver cup which, in 1878, was presented to Dr. Stewart, headmaster of the Central School (now Queen's College), by his pupils on his promotion to the position of Colonial Secretary. With the cup were presented addresses and emblematical embroideries. The Doctor accepted the embroideries, but declined the cup on account of its great value. After being in the possession of the trustees for many years, the cup has now been handed over to Queen's College. Apart from its historic associations this trophy is interesting as a specimen of Chinese workmanship now very rarely seen.

From Tsui Kang village, Santin, close to the Chinese boarder, word was forwarded to the Central Police Station on Jan. 14th of an armed robbery which occurred there early yesterday morning. Four natives, one armed with a revolver and the other three with choppers, forced an entrance into a dwelling occupied by an old woman and a little girl. The inmates were aroused by the noise caused by the forcing of the door, and when the robbers entered the one who carried the revolver fired two shots at the woman. Another of the bandits clove her skull with a chopper while the other two proceeded to ransack the house. The robbers departed with everything of value they could collect, and it is feared they have crossed the river into Chinese territory, and thus made their escape.

"Will your Lordship adjourn this case *sine die*?" Mr. Denny, Jr., asked Mr. Justice Gompertz in the Summary Court on Jan. 8th. He followed his application with the remark, "I believe the defendant is dead," which caused a smile to pass over the features of the Judge, and provoked a laugh from members of the bar.

A rule made by His Excellency the Governor-in-council under Section (1) of the Stamp Ordinance, 1908, states:—"On and from the fourth day of January, 1909, the stamp duty payable in respect of any godown warrant or receipt, being of the nature of an agreement, shall be ten cents in place of one dollar as in Article 2 in the first schedule to Ordinance No. 38 of 1902.

"Newlands," erected about two years ago on a commanding site in Conduit Road, was purchased on Jan. 15 at public auction by Mr. H. N. Mody for \$45,000. It was a sale by order of the Mortgagees. The two lots comprised in the sale measure approximately 63,118 square feet, and the price works out at a little over 71 cents per square foot. The property is held under and subject to the agreements and conditions of sale under which the land was purchased from the Crown at public auction, and the purchaser is entitled to apply for and obtain Crown leases of the lots for terms of 75 years each. The Crown rents payable on the two lots amount to \$435.41 per annum. Messrs. Hughes and Hough were the auctioneers.

A daring armed robbery and kidnapping story comes from Kat Island, near Shataukok. On the 11th instant a native sold a small boy to a boatman there for a sum of \$80, and it appears that during the bargaining before the sale was effected he took careful stock of the craft and learned the future movements of the seaman. Next day he returned to the island with five other natives all of whom were armed with revolvers and choppers. The band of robbers overpowered the boatman, carried off valuables to the amount of \$60 and also kidnapped the boy who was sold on the previous day and the boatman's two young daughters. On the matter being reported to the Police at Shaukiwan Inspector Cameron immediately set detectives on the trail with the result that two men have been arrested and the children have been recovered. The case was called on before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on the 14th inst., and the hearing was adjourned.

In the busiest part of Queen's Road Central at four o'clock on Monday afternoon, a daring attempt was made by three Chinese to relieve a visitor of his ready cash. Evidently the thieves had been watching a money changer's stall and saw the complainant change \$200 Singapore coinage into Hongkong money. He had not proceeded far along the street with his change when the rogues accosted him. One man blinded him by throwing pepper in his eyes, while the other two made a bold attempt to wrest his bag of money from him. The visitor clutched this tightly, however, while his cry of "thief," soon secured assistance from among the passers-by. Finding their efforts fruitless the robbers hastily decamped, and although all were pursued only one man was arrested. He was charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Jan. 12, and the hearing of the case was adjourned.

The water return shows that in the five Hongkong reservoirs of Tytam, Tytam Bye-wash, Tytam Intermediate, Pokfulam and Wong-nei-chung there were on 1st Jan. stored 549,968,000 gallons as against 577,894,000 in the corresponding month of the previous year. The consumption in the City and Hill District during the month of December was 135,540,000 or 21.0 gallons per head as against 20.3 per head in the same month last year. During the last two years there has been a constant supply throughout the city in December, which is satisfactory when compared with the intermittent supplies of preceding years. The return of consumption is subject to error owing to the difficulty of accurate measurements whilst the extension works at Albany filter beds are in progress. In Kowloon reservoir there were stored on Jan. 1st 162,341,000 gallons as compared with 132,500,000 a year before, while the consumption during December amounted to 23,923,000 gallons or 10.8 per head as compared with 8.4 per head in the previous December.

Hongkong is, we understand, to be represented at the Manila Carnival by Mr. A. E. Ellis, a young sprinter who has recently come to the front.

The weekly return by the Medical Officer of Health of the number of cases of communicable disease in the Colony shows that during the week ended the 9th inst. there were two fatal imported cases of small-pox (Chinese) and one Chinese case of diphtheria which proved fatal. The last case of plague occurred on the 30th ult.

A case is set down for hearing at the Magistracy on Friday in which a cargo coolie is charged with assaulting Mr. A. J. Lindberg, chief engineer of the s.s. *Tak Hing*. It appears that the defendant, one of a gang of coolies who were working cargo on board on Wednesday, was found by the officer in the wheel house. Mr. Lindberg ordered him out, but the coolie, instead of departing quietly is alleged to have struck the complainant with a cargo hook, opening his nose from top to bottom. The engineer found it necessary to seek medical aid.

Thomas Cameron, second engineer of the s.s. *Toonan*, caused considerable excitement and no little trouble to the Police near the Fire Brigade Station on Wednesday night. The engineer first quarrelled with a richa coolie, but an Indian constable intervened and the matter was amicably settled. Cameron, however, appeared to be in fighting mood, and is alleged to have then charged some coolies. On the Indian approaching the offender again, the engineer is alleged to have attacked him with a pocket knife, inflicting a nasty wound above the right eye. While this quarrel was proceeding, Inspector Fenton arrived on the scene, and after a desperate struggle with the seaman, succeeded, in dispossessing him of the pocket knife. Then followed a struggle to take the offender to the Central Police Station. He refused to go quietly and it was only after great exertions by the Inspector, who was assisted by four men, that Cameron was landed in the charge room. There, after a time he was admitted to bail in the sum of \$200, but, as he failed to appear at the Magistracy on Jan. 14, his bail was estreated.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK DIVIDEND.

We are officially authorised to state that, subject to audit, the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting

A dividend of.....£2 per share.
A bonus of.....5s.
Add to the reserve fund...\$ 5,00,000.
And carry forward about \$20,00,000.

POLICE SMOKING CONCERT.

That the Police are admirable entertainers those who attended their annual smoking concert at the Water Police Station, Tsimshatsai, on the 9th instant will readily admit. The large matshed erected for the occasion on the compound of the station was admirably decorated and comfortably filled. Among the guests of the evening were the Hon. F. J. Badeley, Captain-Superintendent of the Police; Mr. G. N. Orme, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. King, Deputy Superintendent and Dr. J. W. Hartley.

Mr. Orme presided, and before calling on the first performer, informed the happy looking audience that anybody found guilty of wearing a worried look, or of being dissatisfied, or of not joining in the choruses and encoring would be liable, if found guilty, to the penalty of being put on ginger beer (laughter). For a second offence his liquor would be reduced to water. Needless to say, there were no misdemeanants.

A lengthy programme of musical selections and sentimental and comic songs was then proceeded with, and was not concluded until after midnight. Those taking part were all well-known performers, and, needless to say, all met with a hearty reception at the hands of their auditors on Saturday night.

The committee, whose untiring efforts were crowned with deserved success, was composed of Messrs. A. Langley (President), G. Bird (Secretary), Caygill, Wilden, Jackson, Edwards, Sutton, Munday, F. and W. Pepperell, O'Connor, Lenaghan, Grant, Thompson, Bond and Connaughton.

THE VOLUNTEERS' BALL.

The annual dance of the Hongkong Volunteers, held in the City Hall last night, again proved a great success on which our citizen soldiers are to be congratulated. All preliminary arrangements were in the hands of energetic committees whose combined efforts were responsible for the enjoyable evening which will long be remembered by those who had the pleasure of being present. Great care had, as usual, been bestowed on the scheme of decorations, and the skilful work of the committee engaged in adorning the hall must have been apparent to all who attended. The pillars at the entrance to the hall were encircled with greenery, and between them on either side two Maxim guns were trained on the entrance. The balustrades of the first stairway were hidden by leaves and pot plants, while on the first landing pointing at the visitors was a 2.95 gun, its bright muzzle flashing in the electric light. Above it on the wall hung the motto of the Corps, "Nulli Secundus in Oriente," and in each corner of this landing a maxim looked out from a bower of greenery. Opposite the motto hung the Volunteer banner, above it were more arboreal decorations, and around the walls hung strings of flags. Rifles with bayonets fixed were also piled on the landing, swords were crossed on the walls and bayonets hung there in circle formation. In the dancing halls the decorations were not on the same lavish scale, but the bandstand between St. George's and St. Andrew's halls was fittingly adorned, while the walls of either hall glistened with circles of bayonets. The scene in the ball rooms, however, "when music arose with its voluptuous swell," was just as imposing as the display of decorations without, the white uniforms of the Volunteers and the more gaudy ones of the regulars, of whom a few were in attendance, presenting a very pretty picture.

As before mentioned, the various committee, have done their work, well and their efforts, coupled with the hearty co-operation of the whole Corps, made the ball the success it was. The guests found the soldier men admirable hosts, and if anyone went home dissatisfied it was not the fault of the Volunteers. Members of the various committees were:—

Supper and Wine Committee: Lieut. Wolfe, convener, Captain Wood, Co. Sergt.—Majors Logan, Rodger, Gloyd, Meek and Gray, corporals Cunningham and Crawford, and Gunners Wilkinson and Bridger.

Decorations Committee: Lieut. Andrews, convener, Lieuts. Rees, Kennett and Russell, Sergeants Darby, Seth and Witchell, Corporals Biden, Lenfesty and Crowther Smith, Gunners Pestley and Marshall.

Invitation Committee: Lieut.—Colonel Chapman, Major McDonald, Captains Armstrong, Crake and Skinner.

Cloak and card committee: Captain Forsyth, convener, Captains Lammert and Sorby, Lieutenants Northcote, Skinner and Ross, Company Sergeant-Major Meek.

Dancing Committee: Captain Armstrong, convener, Sergeants Hayward and Wright, Corporals, Gregory, Trooper Hickman and Private Carroll.

The secretarial duties were in the capable hands of Captain Thompson, Captain Sorby and Staff-Sergeant Avenell.

To the music of the Buffs Band dancing started shortly after nine o'clock and was continued until the early morning hours. The attendance was unusually large but that did not affect the pleasure of the volunteers or their guests who went through the programme of 22 dances with particular zest.

THE RECENT DEPORTATIONS.

The Canton newspapers, our correspondent writes, praise the magnanimity of the Hongkong Government in granting a free pardon to the four Canton merchants who were recently deported from Hongkong. A communication to that effect was sent by the British Consul-General to the Viceroy and the appreciative references in the local papers are based on this despatch.

THE SANITARY BOARD ELECTION.

The *Gazette* contains the new rules made by the Governor-in-Council for the election of members of the Sanitary Board. The period for which Mr. Henry Humphreys and Mr. Shelton Hooper were elected expires on the 21st inst.

The new regulations, it will be noticed, dispense with the farce of requiring electors to record their votes, when the number of candidates do not exceed the number of vacancies.

There is a general desire that Mr. Hooper and Mr. Humphreys should retain their seats on the Board, and Mr. Hooper, in view of the representations made to him on the subject, has, we learn, consented to be nominated for another term.

Mr. Henry Humphreys has definitely decided not to stand for another term.

THE NOMINATIONS.

Nominations for the two vacancies on the Sanitary Board closed on Saturday at noon, and quite unexpectedly four names were forthcoming. They were:—

AUGUSTUS SHELTON-HOOPER.

Proposed by Sir Henry Berkeley

Seconded by Mr. D. R. Law.

GERARD N. LLOYD FITZWILLIAMS, M.D.

Proposed by Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock.

Seconded by Hon. Mr. H. W. Slade.

RAPHAEL A. BELLIOS, M.D.

Proposed by Mr. W. L. Carter.

Seconded by Mr. F. Maitland.

HORACE PERCY SMITH (two nomination papers).

Proposed by the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk

Seconded by Mr. C. Lafrentz.

Proposed by Mr. A. J. David.

Seconded by Mr. Ho Fook.

Polling will take place at the City Hall on Wednesday, provided there are not sufficient withdrawals to obviate the use of the ballot box.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

DEAR SIR.—As the electorate for the Sanitary Board representatives has been so largely increased by the Public Health and Buildings Ordinances, 1903-8, it will, I am sure, be a matter of interest to the public to know that all persons of the undermentioned classes have the right to vote at the forthcoming election which will take place on Wednesday next at the City Hall between the hours of 4 and 6 o'clock p.m.

Special Jurors. (108.)

Common Jurors. (833.)

Members of Council.

Civil Servants.

Consuls not carrying on business.

Barristers-at-Law and Solicitors and their Clerks.

Medical Practitioners and Surgeons, and Dentists.

Editors of daily papers and their staff.

Chemists and Druggists.

Clergymen of the Church of England.

Roman Catholic Priests.

Ministers of any Congregation of Protestant Dissenters or of Jews and School-masters.

Officers on full pay in the Naval and Military Service.

Masters of steamers and local pilots.

Persons who are exempt from serving on Juries on account of infirmity or of their being over the age of sixty years.

Yours faithfully,
A. SHELTON HOOPER.

The Viceroy of Canton has selected from among ninety candidates sixteen leading residents to compose the Local Government Board which is intended to form a kind of training school for the future parliamentary representation. It may be noted that amongst the Viceroy's candidates is Kong Hung Yan, alias Kong Sew Heun, a member of the Honan gentry who made himself rather prominent in the recent *Futshan* affair.

"THE SILVER KING."

PERFORMANCE BY THE KOWLOON
DOCK A.D.C.

After several months of diligent application the Kowloon Dock Amateur Dramatic Club produced "The Silver King" on Saturday night to a large audience and met with a success which was a triumphant vindication of their enterprise, or ambition as it has been termed, in attempting a work of such magnitude. Most of our local amateurs have confined themselves to comedy and other comparatively light studies, and it required no little courage to take up the more strenuous rôle demanded by legitimate drama. Critics there were who declared that the effort was doomed to failure, and as the piece is so well known it was presumed that the comparisons which were bound to be made would not redound to the credit of the ambitious amateurs. Doubtless the reasoning was not altogether illogical, but that it does not apply to the production under notice will be admitted by unprejudiced spectators. Saturday night's performance was very creditable indeed, and nothing but what is complimentary can be said of a most laudable effort to add to the all too meagre entertainment of the colony.

Before proceeding to any reference to the performance it may be interesting to note the conditions under which the play was produced. The Kowloon Dock A.D.C. is of very recent origin—last year saw its inauguration—and like other organisations it knows something of the struggle for existence. It is limited to its environment, and the fact that the Dock staff alone supply the talent for such a combination is in itself worthy of comment. Hence it follows that the work of the Kowloon Theatians should be adjudged by a different standard than that of amateurs more favourably circumstanced. Fortunately the K.D.A.D.C. do not need to avail themselves of this privilege. "Rob Roy," their first production, was a brilliant success, and "The Silver King" exceeds the expectations of even their warmest supporters: it is indeed a praiseworthy production and one on which all concerned are entitled to the heartiest congratulations. When it is remembered that there were not sufficient artistes to fill the heavy cast and that several had to appear in more than one rôle, and when it is further remembered that probably not more than half a dozen of those who participated were ever on the stage before, the undertaking appears gigantic and the success achieved seems little less than marvellous. Truly, these amateurs have made the most of their material.

Naturally Mr. R. H. Baxter, who was charged with the duties of stage manager, was largely responsible for the satisfactory conclusion to a period of arduous study and much hard work, but this, of course, could not have been attained without the loyal support of all interested. Mrs. Baxter was a useful coadjutor and set an example which was, to say the least, inspiring, while her tactfulness smoothed over many difficulties. The excellent and artistic mounting of the play was primarily due to Mr. D. Keith and Mr. G. Duncan. The former, ably assisted by Mr. W. Brown, spared no effort in the large amount of carpenter work that was necessary to such a finished production and the latter gave freely of his time, genius and labour in painting the many beautiful scenes that contributed to the effectiveness of the whole. Mr. S. Lightfoot looked after the lighting, and Mr. J. Punccheon was charged with the duties of property man, while Mr. J. C. Owen acted as hon. secretary and treasurer.

After the curtain rose on Saturday night the audience were not left long in doubt as to the quality of the artistes. Indeed it is safe to say that most of the auditors were agreeably surprised. Few expected the admirable rendering that was given to this standard melodrama and certainly few anticipated such finished performances from the people on the stage. No higher testimonial could be paid to the work of the amateurs than the rapt attention with which the performance was followed. It attracted all the interest and absorption of a new play. Thoroughness was apparently the motto of the Kowloon Dock A.D.C. for they were not content to follow the lead of the professionals

who on a recent visit eliminated two of the acts from their performance of "The Silver King." No, they produced the whole five acts in their entirety and though the task was by no means inconsiderable the result amply justified the course adopted. The performance was completed without a hitch. The prompter's office was not onerous and everybody moved on and off the stage as to the manner born. The ease with which the tyros acquitted themselves was a revelation, and the display was such as to please their friends and rouse the enthusiasm of the audience. This found expression in frequent rounds of applause. It was evident too that the approbation of the spectators materially helped the amateurs who settled to their work and gave a production which vanished all criticisms. The scenery was shifted in remarkably quick time and the way in which it was handled earned the encomiums of the audience who could not fail to appreciate the excellent workmanship which contributed to this result.

In coming to speak of the work of the artistes themselves, the first point calling for comment is that, with one or two minor exceptions, the parts were admirably filled. No better interpretation of the difficult rôle of "the Silver King" could have been wished for than that supplied by Mr. R. H. Baxter. He looked the tragedien and he invested the pathetic and tragic events in which he participated with a refreshing realism. Not only that, but he showed a capacity for the lighter element when he assumed the disguise of "deaf Dicky." In a word his performance was clever and effective. He was fortunate in being associated with a lady of such conspicuous histrionic ability as Mrs. Baxter. She assumed the part of Nellie, the wife of Wilfred Denver, and it is no idle compliment to say that her performance was perhaps the most finished on the stage. It was in the highest degree artistic. Whether in the pathetic or the thrilling and dramatic she was always convincing, and she worked up to a climax with startling realism. She was decidedly powerful in the scene where her daughter rushes to her with a purse of money which she throws at Coombe when he comes to eject her from the house, and the floral compliments paid to her then were undoubtedly deserved. Mr. J. C. Owen looked and acted the part of the Spider, the daring, dignified and clever cracksmen, and as he pursued his evil machinations he was rewarded with an occasional hiss. Eliah Coombe, a representation calling for no little study and giving plenty of scope for personality, was well filled by Mr. J. D. Logan, whose performance contributed in no small degree to the success of the production. There was no "staginess" about Mr. J. W. Lander's ripples. He spoke his lines freely and easily and his gesture and action were supplementary and appropriate. He deserves congratulations. No less praiseworthy was Mr. W. J. Wilson's work as Henry Corkett, the youth who was led astray by Eliah Coombe. He had a keen perception of the humorous and he made his part one of the most attractive in the cast. Mr. G. White was admirably suited in the double rôle of the Parish Clerk and Gaffer Pottle, representing both cleverly and skilfully. No little work fell upon Mr. J. Menzies, as Daniel Jaikes, but he showed himself equal to all demands and gave a rendering which was one of the most successful in the production. Mr. D. Keith was well chosen to act as Sam Baxter, the detective, and earned a mead of praise for his intelligent rendering of the part. Mr. S. Gray was effective as Geoffrey Ware and as the railway inspector, and Mr. G. Beck did well as Binks and as Mr. Tabbs, while Mr. W. Brown filled three rôles successfully. Mrs. G. White undertook the representation of the Spider's wife, Miss Ethel Parker was decidedly clever as Susy, while Mrs. Punccheon earned golden opinions for her very skilful performance as Tabitha Durden. In the scene where her overtures to Daniel are rejected she acted admirably. Any notice of the work of the performers would be incomplete without a reference to the clever work of Edith Clelland as Cissy. This childish part could hardly have had a better exponent and the bouquet which she received was an appropriate tribute to her genius.

The caste was as under:

Wilfred Denver.....Mr. R. H. Baxter
Daniel Jaikes (Denver's Servant) Mr. J. Menzies

Capt. Herbert Skinner (The Spider)

Mr. J. C. Owen
Eliah Coombe.....Mr. J. D. Logan
Cripps.....Mr. J. W. Lander
Henry Corkett (Clerk to Geoffrey Ware)
Mr. W. J. Wilson
Sam. Baxter.....(A Detective).....Mr. D. Keith
Geoffrey Ware.....(An Engineer).....Mr. S. Gray
Parkyn (Parish Clerk at Paddiesden)

Mr. G. White
Binks.....Mr. G. Beck
Brownson.....Mr. W. Brown
Bilcher.....Mr. J. Lander
Mr. Tubbs (Landlord of the "Wheatsheaf")

Mr. George Beck
Gaffer Pottle.....Mr. George White
Leaker.....(A Porter).....Mr. W. Brown
Teddy.....Mr. D. Brown
Inspector.....Mr. Sam Gray
News Boy.....Mr. E. Stubbs
Mrs. Denver.....Nellie.....Mrs. R. H. Baxter
Oliver Skinner (Spider's Wife) Mrs. G. White
Tabitha Durden.....Mrs. J. Punccheon
Susy.....Miss Ethel Parker
Mrs. Gammage.....Miss Annie Logan
Cissy and Ned (Denver's Children) Edith

Clelland and Colin Logan
Attendants.....Messrs. Witchell, Ross
and Clements

School Children:—Henry Stewart, C. Stewart,
P. White, D. Purves, L. Purves, W. Robson, A.
Duncan, G. Duncan, T. Taylor, W. Taylor,
and Dorothy Ford, Ena Taylor, Connie Hansen.
The performance was repeated on Monday.

NEW YEAR ROBBERIES.

Notwithstanding the increased vigilance of the Police, Chinese thieves continue to have a fair amount of success. At this time of the year the native burglar is specially active, for the need of ready cash to settle accounts before the New Year, is a powerful incentive.

On the night of the 13th, or early on the morning of the 14th instant, Captain G. V. Robinson's house at No. 1, East Avenue, Kowloon, was visited, and a gold watch, chain and pendant valued at \$250, were removed from his bedroom. Another house in the same road was also visited but not with the same success.

Early on Tuesday afternoon the second floor of 108, Shaanwan, was visited by three natives. Only the cook was at home when the callers presented themselves. One of them inquired about a person he said he expected to find there. While the cook was explaining he was blinded with pepper, and before he could raise an alarm was securely bound and gagged. The robbers then departed with clothing and money to the value of \$89.

Another burglary, of a most remarkable description, is reported as having occurred at Messrs. Sayce and Company's tobacconist and variety store, 14, Beaconsfield Arcade on Thursday night or early yesterday morning. Four attempts have been made to gain admittance to this shop during the past two years, the third being on the 31st December when the robbers tried to cut through the thick panelling of the front door, but without success. A different plan of procedure was adopted on the last occasion, however, and one which displays the daring of the Chinese thief. At the rear of the shop in question is a stone wall about forty feet high, and according to the manager of Messrs. Sayce and Co. the robbers must have let themselves down this wall with a rope. Once below their task was simple. It was just a matter of breaking a pane of glass in the door and drawing the latch. Then the whole of the goods in the shop were before them, and they do not appear to have been at all troubled because the Volunteer dance was going on in the City Hall at the time. Apparently they made a systematic search of the premises, for boxes of every description were opened, although in many instances their contents were not removed. Among the spoils they carried off were 15 dozen briar pipes, two dozen cigarette cases, seven hair-clippers, 40 or 50 tobacco pouches and a quantity of cosmétique, the total value being estimated at \$200. In addition to the articles mentioned the rogues departed with the new year dress of one of the Chinese barbers, and apparently they anointed themselves with scent, for a few bottles were found opened and partially used. The matter has been reported to the Police.

THE PROPOSED HONGKONG UNIVERSITY.

THE GOVERNOR'S APPEAL.

ENDOWMENT FUND OF £110,000 REQUIRED.

His Excellency the Governor has issued the following appeal for an endowment fund for the University which Mr. H. N. Mody has generously offered to erect at an estimated cost of \$290,000:—

A public spirited citizen (Mr. H. N. Mody) has offered to present to the colony the buildings necessary to start a University. His original offer was to give a sum of \$150,000 for this purpose and a further sum of \$30,000 towards endowment. Plans of the necessary buildings were prepared at his instance, and generally speaking they appear suitable. The Colonial Director of Public Works, however, estimated that the buildings proposed would cost not less than \$290,000. Mr. Mody thereupon undertook to provide the buildings in accordance with the plans which he had approved, no matter what the cost might be, stipulating, however, that he should use on the buildings the \$30,000 originally given for endowment, if it should be required.

I called a meeting of representative men of the Colony to discuss this offer, and the project of establishing a University. The following resolutions were eventually passed:—

1. That it is desirable that a University should be founded in Hongkong.

2. That the Secretary of State for the Colonies be requested to approve of the proposed site (near the junction of the Pokfulam and Bonham Roads) on which buildings for this purpose be erected.

3. That so soon as the approval of the Secretary of State has been obtained a Special Committee of twelve persons be appointed by the Governor to approve the design and to supervise the erection of the buildings.

4. That the erection of the buildings should commence so soon as their design has received the approval of the Special Committee.

5. That while the buildings are in process of erection the Special Committee shall endeavour to obtain funds for the furnishing and equipment of the buildings and for the endowment of the proposed University.

6. That the minimum required for furnishing and equipment of the buildings is £10,000, and that the endowment required is a sum the interest upon which will not be less than £6,000 per annum exclusive of Government grants.

7. That the custody and investment of all contributions and benefactions received be the duty of the Special Committee.

8. That, if, when the buildings are complete, an endowment of £6,000 per annum has not yet been obtained, the Hongkong College of Medicine and Technical Institute shall forthwith be located in the said buildings, and be conducted therein on the basis upon which they are then being conducted, and that the said College and the said Institute shall continue in occupation of the buildings until such time as the endowment of £6,000 per annum shall have been collected.

9. That in view of paragraph 5 of the minutes of a meeting held on the 13th March at Government House and of the fact that the College of Medicine will assist the canvass for funds towards the endowment of the proposed Hongkong University, the annual interest on such instalments of the said endowment as may be collected be devoted to strengthening the teaching staff of the Hongkong College of Medicine to the extent of the provision of the salaries of two permanent lecturers in anatomy and physiology and of such further sums out of annual interest as may in the opinion of the Special Committee be necessary for the maintenance of such portion of the buildings as may be allocated to the College of Medicine.

10. That so soon as the Special Committee reports that the said endowment has been collected, the College of Medicine and the Technical Institute shall be incorporated in, and their endowments shall, subject to the consent of the donors, be transferred to the new institution, provided that it has been incorporated under local Ordinances as the Hong-

kong University. The Special Committee shall decide upon the faculties to be instituted, one of which shall be the faculty of medicine, engage the necessary staff, and admit as undergraduates:—

(a.) All who are at that date students of the Hongkong College of Medicine.

(b.) Such additional students, not being members of the College, as have passed the Senior Oxford or Cambridge Local Examination or an equivalent test.

11. That the Managing Body of the University shall thereafter be such as is prescribed by Ordinance.

12. That the course of study of the various faculties shall be such as may be prescribed by the Managing Body—the course for medicine being not less than five years. Provided that students of the Hongkong College of Medicine at the time of its incorporation shall enter with the seniority as to curriculum which they had attained in the College, with a minimum course of two years at the University.

13. That so soon as there shall be undergraduates qualified to go up for their final examination, the London or other British University be requested to conduct the examination for degrees, and that as soon as one, or more students of the Hongkong University have thus graduated, the Governor be requested to apply to His Majesty in Council for the grant of a Royal Charter.

14. That in passing the previous resolutions to give effect to the project of establishing a University in Hongkong the committee understands that the objects of such a University will be to afford a higher education, more especially in subjects of practical utility, such as Applied Science, Medicine, etc., on the lines of such Universities as Leeds and Birmingham, and to confer degrees of a standard not inferior to those conferred by such Universities in Great Britain; to develop and form the character of students no less than their intellectual faculties; to offer equal facilities for students of all races; to extend the knowledge of the English language in the Far East; and to promote a good understanding with the neighbouring Empire of China.

15. That these resolutions be submitted to the Hongkong College of Medicine and to Mr. Mody and that, if the latter assents to them, his generous offer be accepted."

These resolutions were (in accordance with No. 15) submitted to the Hongkong Medical College and to Mr. Mody. The former accepted them unreservedly, the latter replied that after careful consideration of the resolutions (with which in the main he agreed) he regretted that he could not find himself in accord with the proposal to commence building as soon as the Secretary of State had approved of the proposed site, and the designs had been approved. He demurred to the proposal that the endeavour to obtain funds for the equipment and endowment of the University should be undertaken only when building operations are in actual progress. He stated that it was his ambition to see this University established and working during his life-time, but that he did not propose to spend so large a sum without some assurance that, when completed, its original object will have been attained, and that the building will not become merely a home for the College of Medicine and Technical Institute, however worthy and deserving these institutions might be. He pointed out that the sum stated to be required for furnishing, equipment and endowment represented a capital fund of about £110,000 or \$1,250,000 which must be raised by subscription before the University could become operative. He urged that immediate steps should be taken to invite subscriptions and stated that he would leave his offer open for six months from 1st January, 1909, with this object.

Before proceeding further it is necessary to explain the allusions to the "Hongkong Medical College," which appear in the resolutions. This College was founded in 1887 for the education chiefly of Chinese in medicine and surgery. During the 21 years of its existence over 102 students have been enrolled, 36 have been declared to be qualified to practise as "Licentiates" and 24 are still undergoing their training. The diploma of qualification however, does not represent a medical degree and though the licentiates have practised in the Colony and elsewhere with very excellent

results, they are not of course recognised as qualified medical practitioners by the General Medical Council of Great Britain or by the Hongkong Government. The College has no buildings. Students live in lodgings and attend lectures at various hospitals. Until recently the lecturers gave their services entirely gratuitously, but they now receive a small fee. The College depends for its funds on the fees of students and a Government grant of \$2,500 per annum and there are three scholarships.

At the end of 1906, the College received a bequest of property valued at \$10,000, under the will of Mr. Tang Chuk Kai, and in 1907 Mr. Ng Li Hing offered to erect a building on a site promised by Government. The College therefore was justified in commencing its buildings and in an appeal for an Endowment Fund. In 1908 the project of a University was brought forward by the offer made by Mr. Mody who was prompted to the idea by a hope expressed by myself then addressing different schools in the Colony, that the inauguration of a University might not be long delayed. On the receipt of Mr. Mody's offer I at once conferred with the Court of the Medical College, and they agreed to defer their building operations until it should appear whether the University Scheme would take definite shape, on the understanding that the first faculty created in the University should be one for medicine, and that if the Medical College were incorporated in the University its existing students should be at once admitted as undergraduates. The discussion of the scheme has been very protracted, and meanwhile the steps which the College of Medicine was about to take to erect buildings and to appeal for an endowment have been necessarily postponed. It is consequently of grave importance to them that a final decision should be reached without delay, and that the University buildings should be begun as soon as possible. As I have already explained, the commencement depends on the result of the appeal for endowment funds, and the offer to erect the buildings is left open for six months to prove that result.

It was the unanimous opinion of the general meeting, that the two faculties of primary importance to Chinese, the establishment of which should take precedence of any others, were those of Medicine and Applied Science (Engineering). As regards the former it has already been seen how intimately the origin of the University will be connected with the existing College of Medicine. In regard to science it will be noted that allusion is made in resolutions to the "Technical Institute." This institution, consists of lectures given in the evenings to classes in various subjects, especially engineering and its allied studies. The lecturers receive fees, and apparatus and lecture-rooms are provided by Government. The Funds consist of a Government Grant (at present \$13,331), a contribution from the Chinese Shing Institute of \$1,000 per annum and fees of students (amounting to about the same as those of the Medical College, viz, \$2,100 per annum). With this may also be included the local branch of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

It is proposed then to amalgamate these institutions in the University when it is inaugurated, and their assets and endowments will, with the consent of the donors be taken over by the University. The first two faculties established will be Medicine and Applied Science and an adequate staff of Professors and of local lecturers will be engaged to give instruction in these subjects. Degrees will only be conferred upon students who attain a standard equal to that required in England, and the entrance examination will be similar to that required in Home Universities. It is proposed that when there are students ready to present themselves for degree examination the King-in-Council shall be petitioned for the grant of a Royal Charter. It is possible that the London or other Home University may be willing to conduct the examinations and issue degrees pending the grant of a charter. In any case we desire that the degree issued shall be in no way inferior to that given by a European or American University and shall be as widely and fully recognised.

So soon as a sufficient endowment fund has been subscribed, and the donor of the buildings is willing to commence their erection, the

Committee of Management will take into consideration the various questions of organization which present themselves, such as the amount of the fees to be charged to students, the numbers and salaries of the Professorial Staff to be engaged, and of local lecturers, the extent to which residence in the University shall be enforced, and the charges for food, washing, &c. Until the scheme is fully inaugurated, however, it is premature to discuss these. The only decisions at present therefore are that the two faculties which shall first be established are Medicine and Applied Science—and that the University shall be open to all races and creeds.

As regards the claims of the Faculty of Medicine I may quote the following passage from the draft appeal of the College of Medicine:—

It is an admitted fact that the ignorance of the Chinese population in reference to sanitation has had much to do with the tremendous commercial losses sustained since plague became endemic in Hongkong. To dispel that ignorance there can be no more potent agency than to spread broadcast among the Chinese community men of their own race, carefully trained in Western medicine and Western sanitary science, to go from house to house inculcating the principles they have been taught, and leaving the masses of the people with confidence in these principles. And this College has done, is doing, will do, in this respect, what can be done in no other way and by no other agency.

As a matter of fact, most of the licentiates already qualified settled in the Colony itself. All the dispensaries established by the Chinese themselves in various parts of Victoria, in Yau-mat, Hung-hom and old Kowloon City, for the express purpose of assisting the Government to enforce its sanitary laws, are manned by licentiates of this College. Other licentiates are in direct Government service in the New Territory and on the Railway works; some are resident surgeons in the hospitals for the Chinese; and several are practising their profession privately among their own people in various parts of the Colony, and in this capacity gaining access to the homes and the confidence of the Chinese, rich and poor alike. These men are exerting a wide, and a widening, influence towards the breaking down of Chinese prejudices and Chinese obstruction to that better sanitation in which it is recognised on all hands, lie a happier future and a yet greater commercial prosperity for this Colony.

Medicine takes the first place since human life comes before commercial profit, and because the existing Medical College in Hongkong forms the nucleus of the scheme. The second faculty is that of Applied Science, and it needs no demonstration to show how greatly China stands in need of engineers, surveyors, electricians, etc., for the railways, and the mechanical works which are now being inaugurated.

In putting forward the scheme I have emphasised my view that the University should be under the management of a Senate of its own, and should rely upon its own funds. The Hongkong Government, if the Secretary of State concurs, is willing to give a fully adequate and very valuable site, but it can accept no financial responsibility for the success of the project. The continuance, for some years at least, of the grants at present given to the Medical College and Technical Institute (aggregating \$15,800) may be hoped for, "but the rights of the Legislative Council in voting the Annual Estimates, and of the Secretary of State must be maintained unimpaired."

Discussing the question of the necessity of employing English as the vehicle of instruction I observed:—

"It is not, in my view, to establish a University on lines which might equally well be adopted in Canton, where students could be taught in Chinese and be entirely disassociated from British influences. On the contrary we desire to promote a closer understanding of the two races, and this can best be done by the acquisition of the English language. We believe that the language is the best medium for imparting Western knowledge, and that by acquiring a fluency in it students will best fit themselves for success in after life whether they adopt a profession or become officials in the service of their country at the capitals or abroad. Nor must it be forgotten in this connection that if Chinese were adopted as a medium, it would not

only be found most difficult if not impossible to express Western technical terms and instruction in it, but also it would not serve as a medium for Chinese from different parts of China. Students from different provinces would require separate interpreters. In order, however that Chinese students may benefit to the fullest extent, I have said that, in my opinion, a small staff of assistant teachers should be engaged to explain lectures and enable the Chinese to obtain an explanation of any matter they did not fully understand."

The advantages both to China, to the British Empire, and to this Colony of establishing a University are thus summed up by Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., Senior Unofficial Member of the Hongkong Legislative Council, who himself holds full qualifications both in Law and in Medicine:—

"(1) European youths in this Colony and the numerous ports of China will have an institution close at hand affording them professional and technical education equal to that given by similar establishments at home, thus saving them much expense, trouble, and long separation from their parents and families; Chinese boys here and from all parts of the Chinese Empire derive similar benefits, only perhaps in a greater degree; and young men of all other nationalities profit in the same manner.

(2) The prestige and influence of Great Britain will thereby be enormously increased and extended in China, and indeed throughout the Far East.

(3) The commerce, industry, wealth and prosperity of this Colony will be promoted by the large number of men of substance and influence bringing their sons and relatives hither to be educated, and by the presence of a considerable number of persons having a useful knowledge of modern arts and science."

My own view both as to the advantages of the scheme, and the objects which should be kept in view were explained in the following passages of a speech to the General Committee:—

"No one will, I think, be found to deny the statement that the Empire of China has awakened to the necessity of acquiring Western knowledge, and I think that it will be no less readily admitted—looking to the close proximity of Hongkong to China and to the fact that the large majority of the population of this Colony are Chinese, and to the traditional relations which have existed between the British and Chinese—that there is no community which can more efficiently assist in promoting the acquisition of that knowledge than ourselves.

"The proof of China's desire for Western knowledge is found in the increasing number of young men who leave their homes to study in Europe, America, and Japan, and in the increasing number of institutions based on Western models which are springing up in China itself. On each of these two phenomena I have a word to say:

"I have already said that the cost involved by a parent in sending his son to Europe or America amounts to £200 or £300 per annum, in addition to passages. Many are therefore deterred from going.

"But the question of cost is not the only one. A Chinese gentleman, who had received his education in England, recently told me that in response to many inquiries he had always insisted that it was useless to send a boy abroad for a less period than 10 years. A Chinese parent has therefore to reckon with the fact that he will not see his son again until he has changed out of all recognition, and in so long a residence in a foreign country it is inevitable that he should become greatly denationalised. The same gentleman told me that it was the common experience to find these young men on return to China despising their country and their parentage—a hybrid European with a veneer of foreign manners badly laid on a Chinese framework.

"Surely it needs no demonstration that a University in Hongkong where Chinese youths maintaining a Chinese mode of life, and brought up in a Chinese environment, whence they can, during vacation, proceed to their own homes, or where they can be visited by their parents, and so keep touch and retain their family affections, and their patriotism—will appeal to Chinese parents even if the cost be no less than education in Europe?

"I have heard, too, that Chinese parents find by experience that their sons often return from a course of study in a foreign country with revolutionary ideas and become a danger to the State. It should be the special care of the Hongkong University to see that no such pernicious doctrines are encouraged or tolerated here.

"There remains Japan. Education there is not so expensive as in Europe and America, but I learn that the Chinese Government has ceased to send pupils to that country. The experience of the past has shown that students from Japan are to contract revolutionary ideas, and I believe that there is also a feeling among Chinese that the Japanese are but recent pupils of Western knowledge themselves, and that it is better to learn from the fountain head.

Moreover, a pupil in Japan would hardly receive such facilities for acquiring the English language as he would in an English University where the medium of instruction is English, and I hold it to be essential to the granting of a Western degree, that the holder should have a thorough grasp of the language in which the literature of that knowledge is written, and be able to read the original authors for himself.

I turn to the other point—the growth of institutions in China itself based on Western models. We have heard recently of a Training College for candidates for the Imperial Maritime Customs in Peking, and incidentally I am glad to note that it is stated that half the successful candidates at the first part of the entrance examination were from Hongkong. Here the medium of instruction is to be English, the course to be for four years, the subjects Finance, Foreign Languages and Composition, Mathematics, Geography, International Law and Treaties. It is probable that we may obtain many useful suggestions for our University, when the time comes to open its doors to students, from the experience of this admirable institution.

"I see, too, that it is announced in the papers that an Imperial University is to be established in Peking. There is also the French Medical College at Chengtu which issues degrees and was intended to develop in a University; there is the admirable Anglo-Chinese College at Amoy; the College at Tientsin, and nearer home, the Ta Hsueh T'ang at Canton, which boasts of Japanese professors. The Hongkong University will not be in opposition to or a rival of these Chinese Colleges, but will co-operate with them, especially with the College at Canton in the endeavour to provide increased facilities for Higher Education.

"From all these I hope to obtain data to guide us in our decisions as to the scope, the fees to be charged, the general management and all other matters in which their experience may be of value to us, and from some of them no doubt will come English-speaking candidates through our Ambassador at Tokyo and the Minister for Education in Japan some useful information regarding Higher Education in that country together with copies of the Imperial University Calendar, the Higher Commercial School Calendar, the Technological School Calendar, and the report of the Education Department. I have also received from the Bishop useful books referring to the Liverpool University. All these I will lay before the Managing Committee.

"But it may be asked, looking to this already rapid development, may it not be assumed that China will provide her own Universities if she needs them, and may we not therefore find the Hongkong University superfluous? The reply to that question is I think that for a country with a population of four hundred millions, there can be no fear that any University will find a lack of students. There are moreover the populations of our own and neighbouring Colonies to be provided for. I saw it stated recently in the local Press that 58 Chinese youths, sons of rich merchants at the Straits, were passing through Hongkong on their way to Nanking to study Chinese and Western knowledge, after which some of them would proceed to England. For students such as these our University might prove a great boon. By the time China has provided Universities ours will have attained too assured a position to fear any rivals. Merchants do not fear that the dockyards in which they have embarked their

money will be left derelict by progress in China.

Moreover Hongkong will have many special advantages to offer. Its degree will be recognised in England, its dockyards and electrical and other works will afford practical instruction which can hardly be rivalled in China for very many years, its location in a British Colony will, on the one hand, form an attraction to students who desire to obtain opportunities for colloquial English and to acquire something of the Western atmosphere as well as the mere dry bones of knowledge, and on the other hand, to Professors who might less willingly accept an exile in China. In the Medical Faculty more especially, Hongkong can offer facilities for practical anatomy in the dissecting room which Chinese prejudice, at present at any rate, precludes in China.

"The establishment of a University in Hongkong would beyond doubt carry many steps further the useful work already achieved in the past by Queen's College, which has as we know, educated many men who are now holding high official positions in China. The success of that College should augur well for the University with its wider scope.

"The establishment of a University must, I think, inevitably promote a good understanding between the British and Chinese and add to the friendship between the two nations. In particular it will promote the knowledge of English which is useful alike to those who adopt official or commercial careers.

"Some centuries ago Latin was the common language of the savants of the West and the literature of scientific investigation was written in that tongue. The vast populations of China speak no common language, nor is the Chinese written language well adapted as a vehicle of Western knowledge for which at present it has no adequate vocabulary. If then for a period Chinese should find it necessary, as the nations of the West did, to use an alien tongue as a common medium for new thoughts and expressions, I should imagine that no language would be more suitable than English, which already in a 'pidgin' form constitutes a medium for the exchange of ideas between merchants of the North and South. If 'pidgin' English has served as a medium for commerce, why should not King's English serve as the medium for Western education?

In this way the project which takes definite shape to-day may have very far reaching effects. I claim that it will promote a closer understanding and good feeling between ourselves and the Chinese, that it will simulate commerce, and that it will in particular benefit this Colony, not only in these indirect ways, but by bringing us into closer relations with the gentry of China whose sons are being educated in Hongkong, and who will no doubt occasionally visit them here. Germany and France have both seen the advantage of establishing a University, and I am anxious that we should not awake from our traditional apathy too late and find ourselves already forestalled.

OBJECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Finally I have a brief word to say regarding the objects which in my view the University should keep before it. I would place among the foremost of those objects the training of character. I would hope that the graduates of Hongkong would establish for themselves a reputation as patriotic and loyal citizens—whether of this Colony or of China—that during their sojourn here they shall learn to appreciate British ideals of justice and fair play, in short that while remaining in every respect Chinese, the University shall turn out men of upright character and not merely pour new wine into old bottles and evolve machines capable of passing examinations, but incapable of moral control.

In furtherance of this object I propose that the students shall reside in the University and that the permanent staff shall be also resident there. They will thus have opportunities of promoting the moral and the physical development of the students out of lecture hours, no less than the intellectual in the class room.

In the second place the aim of the University should be to afford an education adapted to the careers which its graduates intend to adopt—a sound, practical, secular education. We have seen in India and elsewhere the harm which is done by a system of higher education not based on such principles, which has in fact produced a class of young men of high intel-

lectual attainments, but without a corresponding development of character—men for whom there are no adequate openings and careers in life. The same thing has happened in Africa.

"The graduates from the Hongkong University will have before them all the limitless opportunities which the Empire of China offers, both in the ranks of official life, and in the fields of commerce, and the professions of Medicine, Engineering, etc., in addition to the opportunities offered by our own and neighbouring Colonies.

The model upon which our University is based should, in my opinion, approximate rather to that of Birmingham or Leeds than to that of Oxford or Cambridge or Calcutta. Our Faculty of Science should deal rather with the application of science to industries and with its commercial utility, than with its abstract and theoretical branches. Our Faculty of Medicine will strive to produce fullqualified practitioners, and even a Degree of Arts (if we should decide to establish one later on for the sons of gentry who aim at official posts) should include subjects of practical utility, International Law and Treaties, Geography, Comparative History, and (I would add) the Chinese Literature and classics, so that it should not be said of us as it was said of India by Mr. Fraser that ninety per cent. of the men who pass examinations for English degrees are unable to write or read the language of their own parents.

"I may add in conclusion that I have discussed this project with the British Minister at Peking, and that I found him strongly in support of it, as also our late and present Consul-General at Canton. I believe that I correctly understood these high judges to think that the Chinese Government, as well as the Provincial Government at Canton, will be sympathetic towards it, and Dr. Ho Kai will, I think, be able to inform us that the principal cities of South China will welcome it. Extracts from Home newspapers have been sent to me strongly approving of the scheme, and I know that there are those among the most influential of the members of both the present and the late Government who warmly support the idea.

"I feel confident that the entire community will recognise the importance of this project. It will place Hongkong in a unique position in the Far East. It will no doubt have far-reaching effects upon the prestige and influence of Great Britain throughout the Chinese Empire. It will, I think, be the most important step taken in the recent history of this Colony. I take therefore this opportunity of inviting those gentlemen, whether European or Chinese, whose interests are bound up in this Colony, or who desire to see British influence extended in the Far East, or who would welcome a project which would assist the friendly Empire of China to obtain the Western knowledge which so many of her sons are now seeking and can only obtain at great cost, and by exile from their country, to come forward and support Mr. Mody in his munificent donation, enable us to give effect to his generous effort, by subscribing a sum adequate to carry out the scheme in its entirety. It is, I am aware, not a well chosen time at which to make an appeal for large funds, but it is unavoidable, for the gift which I have announced compels us to act at once and for my part I think it singularly fortunate that it came in time to enable us to incorporate the College of Medicine in the project before it had become too late to do so.

"I feel sure that we may count on still more extended support including the China Association, and that considerable section of the British public who are interested in the Far East and eager to assist in any project which makes for progress and enlightenment, as well as from the Chinese gentlemen who are so conspicuous for their liberality."

The present position therefore stands as follows:—

A very fine set of buildings has been promised. These include 6 lecture rooms, 3 laboratories, a large hall, a large dining room, 2 libraries, with lavatories, offices and professors' rooms on the ground floor and 4 large dormitories on the first floor. Detached from the main building is an anatomical laboratory, a recreation pavilion, a gymnasium, a swimming bath, an entrance lodge, tennis courts, &c. The Government is prepared, subject to the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to give a

very fine site—probably the only one suitable for such a purpose in the Colony. The moment is singularly opportune, for if the University is not inaugurated now the College of Medicine will be built on a separate and very cramped site, and it is hopeless to anticipate that it will ever then become a Faculty of the University. Whether we are able to avail ourselves of these generous offers, and of this present opportunity depends upon whether we can raise an adequate Endowment Fund—which is put at £110,000 including furnishing and the equipment of Libraries and the Laboratories and Engineers, Shops, &c., Mr. Mody's offer remains open for six months. In these circumstances I earnestly appeal to all who desire on the one hand to assist China in acquiring Western knowledge, and on the other hand to extend British prestige, and the knowledge of the English language, in the East, to assist in the project.

F. D. LUGARD.

Hongkong, January, 1909.

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE EXTENSION.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE.

On the 8th inst. the foundation stone of the wing being added to St. Stephen's College was formally laid by His Excellency the Governor in the presence of a considerable number of European and Chinese friends. Prayer having been offered up by the Rev. HEWETT.

The Rev. E. J. BARNETT said:—Your Excellency, my Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen:—The important event in which we are taking part to-day offers a fitting opportunity for reviewing in brief the short history of St. Stephen's College. The inception of the college was due to the foresight and energy of the Venerable Archdeacon Banister, and to the encouragement given to the suggestion by such Chinese gentlemen as the Honourable Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G., and the Honourable Mr. Wei Yuk, C.M.G. In February 1902, on the motion of Archdeacon Banister, the Church Missionary Society South China Conference passed a resolution urging upon the Parent Committee of the C.M.S. the desirability of establishing a College of Western learning in Hongkong, having as its leading principles:—(1) That the College be a missionary institution. (2) That at least two University graduates be maintained on its staff. (3) That the College be self-supporting. About a year later, in March 1903, the College was opened under the direction of the College Council consisting of the Right Reverend the Bishop of the Diocese, the Secretary of the Church Missionary Society in South China, and the Warden of the College—the Rev. E. J. Barnett, M.A., the present Warden, being placed in charge. Subsequently the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., and Dr. J. H. Saunders were elected members of the Council. Working upon the principles before enunciated the College has steadily progressed. In six years the attendance has risen from 7 to 125 students. The teaching staff has multiplied from 2 to 6 English masters, four of whom are University graduates, and the Chinese staff from one to four teachers. The income has kept pace with the expenditure, the students paying fully in fees the cost of their education. Further, the inculcation of morality based upon the Christian Scriptures, through daily lessons therein, has made for the development of character and good citizenship. Thus the principles laid down in the resolution of Conference mentioned have been adhered to, and find their justification in to-day's proceedings. Some three years ago it became evident that an enlargement of accommodation would soon be necessary to meet increasing demands from students. The late Right Reverend Bishop Hoare, D.D., spent some of his last hours in Hongkong before leaving on that fatal voyage in September 1906, considering proposals for expansion, and safeguarding the interests of all concerned. These memoranda form the basis of our present extension scheme. Through disaster and depression in the Colony the erection of additional buildings was delayed, but their need was not forgotten. His Lordship the Bishop has

won not a few friends for the College, and during his furlough in England the Warden was able to interest many members of the Society in its welfare. On his return to Hongkong, in September last, a committee of Chinese gentlemen was at once formed for the purpose of raising funds, consisting of parents and guardians of scholars, having Mr. Lai Kwai Put as chairman, Mr. S. W. Tso as secretary, and Mr. Chan Siu Ki as treasurer, with the direct assistance of the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, and other gentlemen. The secretary and treasurer of the building fund, together with the members of committee have gratuitously devoted much time to our project. The present plans include the erection of a three-storied building; providing masters' quarters, suitable accommodation for over thirty boarders, dining hall, assembly hall, and offices. Mr. Lai Kwai Pui by a generous gift of \$5,000 set an example of liberality which assured success to our undertaking. (Applause.) Other gentlemen have readily followed with subscriptions as under:—Mr. Lai Kwai Pui, \$5,000; Mr. Cheung Sam Woo, \$1,000; Mr. Lo Cho Shan, \$1,000; Mr. Lau Po Tsun, \$1,000; Mr. Chiu Yu Tin, \$500; Mr. Ng Li Hing, \$500; Mr. Wong Shiu Tong, \$500; Mr. Yue Yenk Laan, \$500; Mr. Yung Yik Ting, \$500; Mr. Chau Tung Shen, \$500; Mr. Fung Chun Yuen, \$500; Mr. Lo Man Leung and Bros., \$500; Mr. Leung Hin Cho, \$500; Mr. Ng Pak To, \$500; Mr. Ip Hok Ling, \$500; Dr. Wan Tun Mo, \$400; Mr. Chan Siu Ki, \$300; Mr. Wong Fa Nung, \$300; Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, \$200; Mr. S. W. Tso, \$200; Mr. Mok Tso Chun, \$200; Mr. Cheung Wo Hin, \$200. These figures do but emphasise what we already know—the ready liberality of our Chinese fellow-citizens when they are invited to supply substantial evidence of their interest in any movement which commends itself to their judgment. Donors to the building fund also secure the right to nominate near relations for vacancies as they occur. Such nominees do not receive any financial advantage; but on admission they will be given preference over the sons of non-subscribers—a privilege appreciated at present, and one likely to increase in value in the near future. The motive underlying these gifts therefore is not that of charity. Friends of the College recognise that it is the duty of every man to provide for the education of his own children. From the beginning students of St. Stephen's have paid fees sufficiently high to meet the whole expense of the working of the college, with the exception of the Warden's stipend. Instead therefore of asking the Church Missionary Society to spend large sums of money upon buildings, parents and guardians have come forward with promises to furnish the cost of erecting a new wing to the College to enable us to fulfil our obligations to the students with more satisfaction to ourselves and to them. None the less we, on our part, recognise the generous spirit which animates our benefactors and we greatly appreciate this mark of their confidence in our educational methods of which they have now had six years' experience. The College Council is glad to have this opportunity of publicly thanking them one and all for the sympathy and encouragement received from the beginning, and it wishes to add to those already mentioned the name of still another eastward friend, no longer with us, Mr. Wei On, whose name is perpetuated in the Wei On Scholarship. This fulcrum of parental confidence and appreciation has rendered our task of raising St. Stephen's College comparatively easy. Nay more, it has incited us to responsive sympathy and exertion, with the happy result that to-day we stand side by side, united in one purpose, viz.—the education of Chinese youth on liberal lines, to meet modern requirements, with the fabric of our educational system for character-building based upon 'the fear of God' which 'is the beginning of wisdom.' Chinese gentlemen have all along given such valuable suggestions in every movement towards advance that the council hopes to secure the advantage of their continued advice in the further development and management of the College. The College Council heartily welcomes the proposal for a University in Hongkong. Three years ago we drew attention to the new need arising in our midst for those Chinese students who wished to continue their studies at home, and to specialise in certain branches of learning. We feel sure that your

Excellency's timely effort in this direction will meet with the speedy success it deserves. When paper plans have materialised into University buildings, we trust it will be recognised that the Chinese gentlemen who are raising this present building, have, in so doing, not only exhibited a public spirit as benefactors of the Colony, but have also contributed in no small degree to those wider educational plans in which we are all interested. We believe further, that this College, when called upon, will be found ready and able to fulfil whatever part may be allotted it in assisting to carry through a sound scheme of suitable education for the rising generation of the great nation for which St. Stephen's exists. It has therefore been both a privilege and a special pleasure to invite Your Excellency in the name of the College Council and of parents and guardians of our students to attend this important function of laying the foundation stone of the south wing of St. Stephen's College. (Applause.)

FUNG LAN TSUI, a student then came forward and in the name of the students of St. Stephen's College said he had much pleasure in handing His Excellency a silver trowel.

The GOVERNOR accepted the trowel with an expression of thanks.

Thereupon Bishop LANDEB said that it would be his privilege to make a few remarks later, but he felt they must congratulate the the Warden, council, and masters of the college on the progress of their work. He added that no one had taken a greater interest in the college than His Excellency and they were thankful to have him with them that day.

The box of records having been inserted, His EXCELLENCY laid the stone, using for the purpose the silver trowel with which he had been presented. At the close he said "I declare this stone well and truly laid." This was followed by applause.

The company then adjourned to the temporary building where His Lordship the Bishop presided. He explained that the Chinese inscription on the foundation stone was as follows: "Church Missionary Society This stone was laid by His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., Governor of Hongkong, 8th January, 1909. The entire cost of the erection of this south wing of St. Stephen's college was borne by parents and guardians of the students."

His EXCELLENCY said:—My Lord Bishop, ladies and gentlemen, last year about this time, when I had the pleasure and privilege of distributing the prizes at St. Stephen's college your Warden, the Rev. Barnett, was absent on leave in England. We are glad to welcome him back amongst us and to see him again at the scene of his successful work in this college. His place was taken for the time being by the Venerable Archdeacon Banister, who, perhaps more than any other man, may claim to be the founder of St. Stephen's college. We have to deplore his absence to-day, for he has gone home for a well-earned rest after many years of hard work in the Far East. It may be that his health and advancing years may render it necessary for him to remain in England. If so this colony will lose a very devoted and able man and this college especially will lose an indefatigable friend who has, since its inception, been always ready to assist and help in every way in his power. We hope, however, we may see him back amongst us, and if he comes he will inaugurate, as I may say, the second phase of the existence of St. Stephen's College. For with the extension of the buildings, the foundation stone of which I have had the pleasure of laying, St. Stephen's College may be said to enter upon the second phase of its existence. I hope and trust that the second phase may be no less successful and even more successful than the first phase has been. (applause). Your warden in the address which he has just delivered alluded to the subject of the University for Hongkong. It was on this platform a year ago that I gave expression to the thoughts which were in my mind on this matter. I said how much I should like to see Hongkong set an example to the various colonies in the East and establish a university in this colony. I confess that when I used those words I had very little idea that I should ever see them fructify or that it was any more than a dream of what I should wish

to see happen. I little thought that they would have the result that they had. Within a few days our generous fellow citizen, Mr. Mody, informed me that he had read the words I had used here, and that the project struck him as a most excellent and sound one, and he was prepared to come forward and present buildings fully adequate for the needs of a university whatever the cost might be (applause). Since that time we have carried on negotiations with the Hongkong College of Medicine which I wish to incorporate in the university, and meetings have been held at Government House to discuss how the project might be fulfilled. In a word the position to-day is that Mr. Mody's offer remains open for six months, and if at the end of that period an adequate endowment fund is in sight he will commence to erect the buildings. I hope to-morrow to issue a paper which I have drawn up in the form of an appeal stating the objects and the scope of the university, and asking all to help to raise the endowment fund. The project of a university is one which is very important to this college. I hope that St. Stephen's will provide many of the undergraduates for the Hongkong university. They will be able to complete their education. Many, perhaps, who would not be able to go to England would be able to gain similar education here, and others would be able to enter upon a university course without being exiled in a foreign country for a long period of years. The project will always remain associated in my mind with St. Stephen's College, because it was here that the first words were spoken which led to the scheme taking practical thought. Ladies and gentlemen, I have been tempted into what really is somewhat of a digression on the subject of this university in consequence of the allusion to it by the Warden in the address he has delivered, but my presence here to-day is primarily to lay the foundation for the extension of the buildings of this college. In the first place I must thank you most heartily, the students and boys of St. Stephen's, for the beautiful trowel which you have given me and which came altogether as a surprise to me and which will always remain in my home in England as a memento of to-day (applause). In the the second place I must say with very great regret my wife is unable to be here to-day, as she would have wished, because she is lying seriously ill, and has been in a somewhat dangerous condition for the last few days. She would have, had it been possible, desired very much to be present to-day and to witness the laying of the foundation stone. I congratulate you most heartily on the public spirit and generosity which has enabled you to raise the subscriptions without appealing to mission funds for the extension of these buildings. I am glad to hear in the report that has been read that a portion of the buildings is to be devoted to residential quarters for boarders. The aim of the founders of this college was to develop the character of the boys and not merely to train their intellects and, in my opinion, as I have said before, since I have been in the colony there is no way in which that can be better done than by having boarders in the schools who can mix in the daily intercourse of social life with the masters and staff and where they can be influenced for good in all their relations in life. I am confident that the tone of St. Stephen's will always remain a pride and a pleasure to those who take an interest in the school and to those who have contributed to the funds. My Lord Bishop, ladies and gentlemen, I most earnestly and heartily wish you success. Success to the new wing which we have inaugurated to-day, success to St. Stephen's College on its wider basis when the wing is completed and the College can grow to its full dimensions (applause).

The WARDEEN having read the report which dealt with the progress of the college.

BISHOP LANDEB addressed the assembly. He said he was sure they would all agree with him in congratulating the Warden on the excellent report he had just read. He felt that they were making history that day. His Excellency's remarks made last year had so fructified that a university had almost come into sight. He remembered something he had said twelve months ago—that he had dreamt of a new building for

St. Stephen's College. He did not know then that his dream was soon to be realised and that twelve months from then His Excellency was to be with them to lay the foundation stone of that new building. He felt that indeed they were making rapid progress in the cause of education in this Colony. He cordially agreed with what Mr. Barnett had said that they could assure His Excellency of their most hearty co-operation in the scheme for a University and that all connected with the College would do all they could to help him. He thought that day's function was a very striking testimony of the work done by Archdeacon Banister and the Rev. Mr. Barnett. His only regret was that the Archdeacon was not with them that day, though he knew he was in thought and spirit, though not actually, in bodily presence. It was an evidence of the good feeling that existed between the British and Chinese. On the one hand the British nation had sent some of its most able men to work out here in educational matters, men who could have obtained good positions anywhere in the world. The Chinese had appreciated that by a kindly feeling of reciprocity. He had one of the greatest compliments ever paid him in his life paid him last March when some Chinese gentlemen who had heard he was going to England asked him to take their sons to England and put them in the best English schools and universities. He had taken it as a very great compliment and deemed it a very great privilege to take these young men home. He hoped they were making good progress, these past students of this college. That day they had a remarkable evidence of the reciprocity of the Chinese in that their new building was being paid for by the parents and guardians of the students in the school (applause). The Chinese trusted the College and they could assure the Chinese that they would do their best to show that trust was never misplaced. Then they had also witnessed that day the value of Christian ethics. They believed that the great object of education was to form character, and that there was nothing that tended to form character better than a knowledge of the Christian scriptures. At the College this was systematically taught. The Chinese sent their boys there with that understanding, and although every liberty was given them, there was never the smallest attempt at proselytising. The College was there because they believed in the scriptures and endeavoured to teach them. He thanked His Excellency for being with them that day, and he congratulated the Council and all connected with the College on the splendid success of the gathering. He asked His Excellency to present the prizes.

HIS EXCELLENCY, who on rising, was received with applause, said, My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen: I have already spoken at some length. In the remarks that I have already made on the subject of the university I was tempted to speak at some length in consequence of what the Warden had said. He has returned again to the charge and he has given expression to his views as to the faculties which should be included in the university, and as to its general scope. I would only say one word. It is, I think, at present premature to say what faculties or chairs shall be included in the university scheme until we are quite certain that the scheme will fructify. His Lordship has said that we might regard it as almost certain—I forget his words—that it was almost an assured project. I am afraid it is hardly so yet. We shall not know until we see whether friends will come forward to subscribe the endowment fund which is necessary before we begin building. I heartily agree with the Warden that it is advisable we should have an Arts degree, if it is possible. That will depend on the funds raised, and the professorial staff which we shall be able to engage. But decision on these matters will rest with the council or synod which shall be appointed to manage it when once it takes actual form. We have heard the report of the past year. I am sorry that the number of boys is not quite so large as last year. Last year it was 158 and this year 136. Also that boys for the Oxford-Cambridge are not quite so many. Last year there were thirteen, and this year nine. But the Rev. Warden has explained to us that the reason was that a serious epidemic of plague interfered with the curriculum of

education and that the school had to be temporarily closed. I hope that you will return to, and exceed, the numbers of 1907. I should like to offer congratulations also on this excellent college magazine. I had not seen it before. I was for several years editor of my college magazine, and I take a great interest in all college magazines. I never fail to look at the Dragon Magazine from Queen's College, and I hope you will do me the honour of letting me see yours also. Before I present the prizes I would offer hearty congratulations to those who have been successful either in winning prizes or certificates, and to those who have not been successful I would urge the taking to heart of the excellent and sound advice given by the Warden that failure should only be a preliminary to success—that failure should only promote renewed and extended exertions. I wish you all very happy holidays, and a happy new year as Chinese New Year begins (applause).

The Rev. Mr. Barnett explained that last year they had 151 students actually on the roll during the year. They closed this year with a roll call of 125 names. As a matter of fact they had more students attending this year than last.

The prizes were afterwards distributed by HIS EXCELLENCY, and the proceedings terminated with cheers for the Governor.

ELLIS KADOORIE CHINESE SCHOOL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

There was a large attendance at the Ellis Kadoorie Chinese School on the 9th inst. when Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe presided at the annual distribution of prizes. Among others in attendance were Mr. Ellis Kadoorie, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Rev. C. H. Hickling, Mr. and Mrs. Terry, Mr. G. Piercy, Mr. D. S. Gubbay and Mr. McCubbin.

Mr. W. D. BRAIDWOOD, the principal, in presenting the eighth annual report remarked that it testified to the increasing usefulness and popularity of this institution among the Chinese. Each succeeding year seemed to justify even more than its predecessor the wisdom and foresight of the President and Council to whom the existence and conduct of the College was due. From July 1st, 1907, to June 30th, 1908, the number of pupils enrolled was 972. The highest number on the register at any given time was 677, the maximum attendance being 617, compared with 571 and 528 respectively in the previous year. On the last prize giving his Excellency the Governor referred to the congested floor space, and trusted that those who had the interest of the school at heart would attend to this deficiency. The Council at once took measures to provide additional accommodation, but found that this could not be done without the assistance of the Government. As the estimates have been allotted for that year, however, the matter had to be deferred, but it was hoped that the extension would be completed during the current year. The scholarships and prizes to be presented that day were awarded on the results of an examination recently conducted by the headmaster. The percentage of passes in the various subjects was:—

Reading	97 per cent.
Arithmetic	75 per cent.
English Composition	75 per cent.
English Colloquial	91 per cent.
Geography	85 per cent.
Grammar	91 per cent.
Dictation	87 per cent.
Writing	99 per cent.
History	90 per cent.
Translation, English to Chinese	94 per cent.
Translation, Chinese to English	75 per cent.
Euclid	80 per cent.
Algebra	88 per cent.

Mr. BRAIDWOOD concluded by thanking the following donors to the Scholarship and Prize Fund:—The Blake Trust, Mr. Ho Kom Fong, The Po Leung Kuk, The Tung Wa Hospital, Messrs. Ellis Kadoorie, Ho Tung, Li Tsz Chiu, Ip Seung Wan, Chan Chenk Hing, Leung Yau Po, Wan Cho Tsoi, Ho Fook, Lau Chu Pak, Tsang Yent Kai, Sin Tak Fan, Uu Lai Chun,

Chiu U Tin, Ip Shun Kom, Lau Pun Chiu, Kwok Shiu Lau, Ng Hon Chu and others.

The very satisfactory report of the Inspector of Schools was then read. In it Mr. Wolfe stated that 436 pupils were present at his examination, the results of which on the whole were highly satisfactory. He returned the school as thoroughly efficient, and recommended a grant at the rate of 30/-.

Mr. Wolfe was then asked to present the prizes. Before doing so he referred to the highly satisfactory progress made by the school. The large increase in attendance was a matter for congratulation, and he thought that this was due to the existing organisation and equipment. There could be no doubt that parents were well satisfied with it when they continued to send their children to the Ellis Kadoorie School. Referring to the hygiene competition the speaker thought it would please the pupils to know that their school came out at the head of the list (applause). As Dr. Pearce, the Medical Officer of Health, conducted the examination, they could congratulate themselves on his independent testimony as to the efficiency of the school in this subject. Mr. Wolfe thought, however, that this school had about thirty holidays too many in the year. It should not be forgotten that to all intents and purposes this was a British school, and the speaker did not see why all Chinese as well as all English holidays should be kept. The speaker concluded by remarking that the committee appointed to inquire into what branch of sport was most indulged in had found in favour of football, and this being so, His Excellency the Governor had decided to present a challenge trophy to be competed for among the schools (applause).

Mr. WOLFE then distributed the prizes to successful pupils, after which Mr. BRAIDWOOD thanked him on behalf of the school, and the proceedings ended with cheers for the Inspector of Schools and the visitors.

THE CANTON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

INTERESTING ADDRESSES TO THE STUDENTS.

That noble woman Dr. Mary H. Fulton of Canton, must have felt pride on Thursday, January 7th, when for the seventh time a contingent of foreign-trained Chinese doctors graduated from the E. A. Hackett Medical College for Women, of which she is the moving spirit.

The Theodore Cuyler Native Church was most beautifully decorated by the Chinese for the occasion, and crowded with students, their friends, and guests, including the Taotai representing the newly-established Bureau of Commerce and Industry. The Viceroy, unable to be present, sent his secretary; and other Chinese officials were present in their elaborate dress.

The programme began with a hymn by the fifty medical students, young women of good Chinese family uniformly dressed in gray. It was an imposing sight to see this body of cultivated Chinese young women. The Rev. Robert Chambers led the devotional exercises. Mrs. Ku sang a solo acceptably; Dr. Fulton presented diplomas to the seven graduates; Dr. Lo Shau Wan presented a prize to the best student of the graduating class, and the Ven. Dr. H. N. Noyes pronounced the benediction. After this tea was served in one of the houses of the compound.

There is a school of nursing in connection with this Medical College and the extensive hospital, all under American Presbyterian auspices. The nurses were garbed in white and their bright interested faces suggested what beneficent contact with foreign influence does for them.

Mr. Willard B. Hull, the American Vice-Consul General in-charge at Canton, presided, and addresses were made by Dr. Amos P. Wilder, American Consul-General at Hongkong; Dr. McCracken of the Canton Christian College; Dr. Holt Chang of the Government Army Medical College, who spoke on midwifery; and by the Taotai.

Dr. WILDER congratulated the young graduate doctors on their election of a busy, full life in preference to one of decorative idleness or of profitless trivialities. They had received equipment, he said, beyond their sisters and it

was given to them to illustrate in China, where women had been confessedly intellectually bound as well as foot-bound, what a woman with a well-trained mind can do. It was useless to deny that many in all countries questioned the wisdom of the higher education of women. Some of this objection was due to selfishness in men who find it more convenient to keep women from knowing too much and so competing with them. It gratifies the vanity of lazy and selfish men to have women ignorant and inefficient. The presence of alert-minded and informed women is a rebuke to such. No one ever heard of a thug, a drunken loafer, a home tyrant who favoured the enlightenment of women. He is the loudest against their development, whether it be advanced study, a vote to protect their property, or the study of medicine. He believes they should keep "their place."

But, apart from this opposition, which may be disregarded, many men whose opinion must be respected look with something of terror on the participation of women in activities other than "children, church, and cooking," because they fear they will lose their charm and spirit of womanhood, perhaps despise the mission of their sex and seek to become men. This is indeed a peril to be guarded against, for nothing is more repulsive than a woman who scorns her lot as woman and discredits her qualities. It is your part to show that medical training and the opportunity it gives for helping women and children do not war on womanly modesty and gentleness, but rather enrich the character and give it strength. Such a womanly equipment may clash with the traditions of those who count woman a toy or a slave, but it appeals to those who admire women of good mind and an intelligent, sympathetic and efficient interest in life. You thus have a double mission, not only to alleviate pain and restore strength, but to build up among the Chinese an ambition to educate their daughters as well as their sons, and to open doors for full, rich life for Chinese women. There is no finer charm, as there is no greater dignity, than that of a cultivated woman of a race, who has not lost touch with any of her own sex, who can converse on general topics, who loves children, who is attractive to both and is able to help both.

It is charged against the Chinese that they are mercenary and the fear is expressed that as young doctors, working among your sex, you may think more of the fees you earn than of the good you may do. It is not alone among the Chinese that the dollar is for ever in mind. However, the best work in all lines is done by those who take pride in their work as such and to whom the compensation is incidental. This is especially true in medicine, which has something of the nature of a sacred calling, so much so that among the Chinese the dignified practice of a "honorarium" rather than "pay" lingers; the patient leaves his fee of uncertain amount on the table as he goes out. It is said of some professors in German universities that often they do not know what their salaries are; they are so much absorbed in their work that the matter of income is irrelevant to them. Agassiz, the American scientist, when asked to lecture for a large fee, replied that he was too busy to earn money. It is a hard saying that you must not think of money when curing the sick; but it may be said that the great ones in your profession do not work primarily for money. They know a zeal and enthusiasm rare in other callings, and work for the love of science as shown by some of the best work being done in charity hospitals. As graduates of a Christian school, you may have even a higher motive than love of abstract science, even of humanity. If you fail to have a growing list of charity patients—of the poor who can pay you nothing—you will be ranked as mercenary and you will discredit this School founded in the name of Him who went about doing good, without money and without price.

It is common to hear people say they favour and will support medical missions and missionary schools, but they have no sympathy with the preaching department of missions. You have lived with missionaries here and see the false reasoning. You have seen in the life and thought of the Fultons and others of those who have helped you to this education, that Christian teaching is the inspiration of this work; without it there would be no medical college. Medical missions and missionary schools are the

fruits of Christian principles; if the latter are not preached, there will be none of the former. You do not know any doctors working among the Chinese without fees who have not the Christian inspiration; you never heard of a foreigner coming to China and teaching for the love of it; only those come with the Christian motive power behind them. And so the missionary is more important than the doctor or the teacher. Jesus did not say "Go and establish medical schools for every creature"; he said "Preach the Gospel to every creature," for He knew the medical training, popular education and every good thing would follow. Dr. McDonald, who was so cruelly murdered on the West River, and who the Chinese so mourned, was busy with his healing, but if you read his life you will find much more about Christianity than healing. He knew the latter was incidental; the purpose that glowed in his great soul was to kindle the principles of Christ among the Chinese. For a man to say, "I approve medical missions but I disapprove missionary preaching" is as if one said, "I admire the rose but recommend that the stalk be cut down." Or as if he enjoyed the benefit of the electric lights of a city and had contempt for the modest and obscure power house that made the light possible.

The following is a translation of the address of the TAOTAI:—

"An address to the successful candidates of the Hackett Medical College for Women.

"The 16th of the 12th moon of the Mo Shan Year being the day on which your esteemed College celebrates the occasion of your students' completing their term of study, I, the Taotai, by order and on behalf of the Viceroy of the Two Kwangs, attend this meeting to-day and deliver the following address:

"In Western countries Medical Colleges for men and women are equally held in high esteem. Formerly the Americans established a hospital for women in Canton called the "Yan Tsai" and subsequently established the present College and had gathered virtuous ladies and taught them the method of delivering the people of this world, which is a very good idea. All the ladies have used their utmost endeavours to learn and have now succeeded in their study. From this time forward they would make good use of their profession and be brilliant lights among the females so as to comply with the excellent idea of a nation with whom we maintain a cordial relation and at the same time realise the pleasure and hope of our Viceroy. May you female students all pluck up your courage. I also congratulate your esteemed College on its future career."

Dr. McCracken, of the Canton College, then delivered an address of which the following is an abstract:—In every country physicians are now thinking more about the prevention of disease and less about the cure. They are beginning to realize that the greatest good can be done by treating people before they are sick. It is believed by many people that most, if not all, disease, can be stamped off the face of the earth. What a gigantic undertaking! Yet enough has already been done to make such a project seem quite possible. Look at Europe and America. In those countries the plague, cholera, and small pox are practically extinct. Most other diseases have been greatly lessened in virulence. Every year brings out new and better ways of treating those diseases that are left so that we have every reason to believe that, within another generation, many of these will be numbered with those that are not. How has this been accomplished? By the earnest, hard faithful work of intelligent men trained in scientific medicine and backed by the Government. Considering disease a great enemy, in fact, the greatest enemy of a country, most Governments have organized to destroy disease causes. In the United States each State has its Board of Health while each large city has its own board which is responsible for the city's people. Take New York City, for example, where probably as much is done and done as well as in any other city in the Union. That city hires a great many well-trained doctors to form what is called a Board of Health. This body of men are made responsible for the health conditions of New York City. They first urge the law makers to pass good laws to control health conditions. The following are some of the laws which are now in force in New York City:—

(1) Every contagious disease must be at once reported to the Board of Health. (2) No person with a contagious disease is allowed to enter the United States from another country. (3) Every child must be vaccinated. Hospitals for the care of all important contagious diseases are provided. In these ways most of the worst contagious diseases are kept out of New York City. Sometimes plague or small pox slips in, but the knowledge that we now have enables the Board of Health doctors very soon to stop the disease. With universal vaccination, small pox has become almost extinct. Among the 90,000,000 people of the United States you find as much small pox in a month as you could find in Canton in one day. In every country a great many people die each year from bowel trouble. Especially is this so among the children. Most of these diseases causing germs are carried either in the food or in the water the people drink. This Board of Health endeavours to secure through the Government good, pure clean drinking water for every citizen. All the foods that are for sale in the markets are inspected. No poisonous or decayed foods are permitted to be sold. Milk, so commonly used in America, is closely inspected daily. By this careful inspection of all foods and drinks the Board of Health has been able to lessen greatly the number of deaths from bowel diseases. Most of the so-called anti-opium pills are opium in another form, so that when a person takes them, of course, he does not wish to smoke opium, but the pill habit is even worse than the smoking habit. Patent medicines are almost without exception frauds which do far more harm than good. Leave them alone. We see canals half full of dirt with decaying filth and animals at the bottom. These places are the finest possible for the growing of disease germs. Each city should furnish a system of sewers which will carry away all waste, all filth; so that there be no place left where disease germs can grow.

HEAVY SENTENCES ON STOWAWAYS.

The twenty Chinese who stowed away on board the s.s. *Eastern* before she left Hongkong on her last voyage south, and who were discovered on board at Sydney, the majority with loathsome eruptions on the face and hands, were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on the 11th inst., and pleaded guilty.

Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appeared for the seventeenth defendant.

Mr. Almada informed his Worship that the uncle of his client had arranged with a steward on board the *Eastern* to get the defendant a passage to Australia. The uncle paid to the steward, in the presence of the defendant, \$150, and as soon as the defendant went on board he was put in the hold. Mr. Almada understood that the steward and the cook had since left the ship, and that the police were now in search of them.

His Worship—Where were the stowaways found?

Mr. Bailey—In the No. 1 hold when the vessel arrived at Sydney.

His Worship—In what part?

Mr. Bailey—Right down at the bottom; as far down as they could get. As your Worship knows, this is a most serious affair for shipping companies. If these men had got ashore it would have cost the E. and A. Company £2,000 sterling, but luckily they were found and brought back. This stowaway business is getting more common every day, and I would ask your Worship to inflict the heaviest penalty, namely, nine months' imprisonment, and impose a fine. I understand they have got a considerable amount of money.

Mr. Almada—I am prepared to prove that No. 17 had actually paid his money.

His Worship—They don't deny that.

Mr. Bailey—With regard to my friend's client, if your Worship requires further evidence I would ask for a remand. As my friend admits, he was not on board with the permission of the agents.

His Worship—Who found these men?

Mr. Bailey—They were found by the Customs and the ship's crew at Sydney.

Mr. Almada—It is obvious that they could not have hidden themselves without the assistance of somebody, consequently they are not guilty in the first degree.

Mr. Bailey—In a case in connection with the C. P. R. Mr. Hazeland inflicted the full penalty.

His Worship—But the stowaways found on the *Aldenham* were not prosecuted.

Mr. Bailey—I understand they paid their passages.

His Worship—I cannot quite reconcile the attitude adopted by the Shipping Company. I cannot understand why they should ask for the maximum penalty in one case and not prosecute in another.

Mr. Bailey—I understand that in the *Aldenham* case the passages were paid.

His Worship—I daresay a good many of these men would be willing to pay their passages.

Mr. Bailey—They are stowaways, and I would ask for the full penalty.

Mr. Almada—I think, on the other hand, the officers of the ship were rather negligent in not keeping a better lookout.

Mr. Bailey—Since this case the Commonwealth has passed special legislation with regard to stowaways.

Mr. Almada—If the ship had been better watched, none of these men would have got away.

Mr. Bailey—Unless the full penalty is inflicted, it pays the Chinese to go trying to get men in. Formerly the shipping companies were fined £100 if a man was landed; now they are fined £100 for each man found on the ship.

His Worship—I am quite prepared in these cases to inflict heavy penalties if I am satisfied the shipping companies will prosecute, but if they prosecute in one case and fail to do so in another, it is hardly fair.

Mr. Bailey—I know nothing about the *Aldenham* case, but I take it the Company had very good grounds for not prosecuting.

Mr. Almada—I would ask your Worship to take into consideration the fact of the Company not having kept a proper watch before the ship left.

Mr. Bailey—The ship was searched two or three times.

Mr. Almada—And I would ask your Worship to seriously consider the fact that the defendants were not responsible in the first degree.

His Worship sentenced each of the defendants to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour.

TRU K COOLIE'S INCARCERATION.

A curious story was told to Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistracy on Jan. 11 when a native and his wife, who reside on the second floor of 26, Albany Street, Wanchai, were placed before his Worship on a charge of assault. A coolie, it appears, was pushing a truck along one of the lanes running off the Praya East. In front of him a number of small boys were gambling on the road. As he approached them he hailed them to make way, and the youngsters, grabbing their cash, got off the road, only to return and proceed with the game before he had passed. One of the boys, in grabbing for a cash, got his hand run over with a wheel of the truck and went home wailing to his parents. The coolie, on the following morning was enticed to the house of the defendants who locked him up and told him they would not liberate him until he paid them \$30. After some delay the coolie agreed to do this, but the parents were not satisfied and raised the price of the ransom to \$60. This amount the coolie could not raise, so he was kept a prisoner for that day, and was not supplied with food or drink. In the evening, according to his story, six or seven men were called in and gave him a thrashing. His screams of "save life" attracted the police, and the defendants were arrested. Yesterday his Worship ordered each defendant to pay a fine of \$10, and bound each over in the sum of \$50 to be of good behaviour for six months.

Private information has reached Manila from Washington, D. C., to the effect that the Navy Department will order the entire First Provisional Regiment of Marines, now on duty with the Army of Cuban pacification, to the Philippines, on the evacuation of Cuba.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, January 8th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A PENDING LIBEL ACTION—INTERIM INJUNCTION GRANTED.

Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. O. D. Thomson, moved the Court on behalf of Chan Kung Yui and Chan Yu Shi for an interim injunction pending the trial of an action for libel restraining Lam Kok Sang, his agents or servants, from printing, publishing or selling a book entitled "Chan Fong Po."

Counsel stated that Mr. Chan Kung Yui was a married man, and in this Colony there was a publication which gave the names and accomplishments of females in the *demi monde* in the Chinese world. This book also contained portraits of the persons who were mentioned in the letterpress. Among those persons appeared a portrait of the plaintiff's wife, who was herself a plaintiff. A more terrible or grosser libel it would be impossible to conceive than putting her in such an almanac—an almanac of the prostitutes of the Colony. Of course the court would only grant injunctions in libel where the injury was serious, but nothing could be more serious than this.

His Lordship—Her husband will not have cause of action.

Sir Henry Berkeley—He is coupled with her.

His Lordship—He is suing as an independent plaintiff?

Sir Henry Berkeley—Yes.

His Lordship—I doubt his cause of action. I will grant the application but amend the writ.

Sir Henry Berkeley asked that they—I would writ be amended by striking out the name of the male plaintiff.

His Lordship—I see no objection to the case being supported by the affidavit of the plaintiff's husband. I mention the matter in case it should be taken hereafter.

Sir Henry Berkeley then proceeded to read the husband's affidavit which stated that he purchased a copy of the book at *The World's News* Office on January 6th. The book, which purported to contain portraits and descriptions of prostitutes in Hongkong, had on one of its pages the portrait of a woman alleged to be called A. Choi, who was described as being a prostitute in a brothel at Shektonsui. This photograph was the exact reproduction of the first plaintiff's wife (Counsel could only assume that some enemy had sent this portrait to the publisher). She was married to the plaintiff according to Chinese custom, and her father was formerly compradore to a merchant at hefoo, and was at present a merchant in Tientsin. The first plaintiff's father was formerly compradore of the Hongkong Club for 30 years. The second plaintiff was not, and never had been an inmate in a brothel.

Counsel remarked that his Lordship would see that that people were persons of respectability.

His Lordship said the plaintiff should file an affidavit with regard to the last paragraph of her husband's affidavit.

Sir Henry Berkeley stated that in the edition of *The World's News*, dated January 6th, as advertisement appeared saying that the book could be obtained there. It was a book that anybody could buy, and its very purpose would be defeated unless it was widely circulated. It was a book produced for the purpose of advertising the charms of the ladies of the *demi monde*.

His Lordship—I think I ought to have some official translation of the letterpress.

Sir Henry Berkeley said the translations were nearly finished. They did not rely on the words being libellous. On the cover of the book appeared the words "The Chan Fong Po: A Chronicle for those in search of fragrance." In other words, it was a guide book to the *demi monde*. Then it ran on with a detailed account of the beautiful faces of the prostitutes whose pictures appeared, together with a short history of their lives.

His Lordship—Does the book bear the name of the publisher?

Sir Henry Berkeley—No, but there is an affidavit showing that it was bought at the office mentioned. Counsel then read the affidavit of Mr. Thomson which showed that in a bond under the Newspaper Ordinance the defendant was described as the printer and publisher of that particular paper.

His Lordship granted the order applied for.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

A DISPUTED LOAN.

Action was brought by S. Greenfield against F. L. Vernon for the recovery of \$76.70 due for money lent.

Both parties appeared in person.

S. Greenfield deposed to lending the defendant in the years 1906-07, but he could not remember the dates. He advanced him \$70 in cash, to pay for furniture and clothing, and the \$6.70 was for work done at plaintiff's factory. Witness had had no repayment, and had received no interest.

Plaintiff was cross-examined by defendant.

Was I in the Colony in 1906?—I don't remember the year, but I remember lending you the money to buy furniture.

Defendant then took the witness stand. He stated that in October 1906 he was in receipt of reserve pay of \$90, and was employed at Quarry Bay. With that money he bought furniture, and then removed into one of Mr. Greenfield's houses. In January last year he was sued for \$30 odd by Chung Cheong. Being in difficulties at the time, witness asked Mr. Greenfield to keep an eye on his furniture while he attended the Court. The bill in plaintiff's possession were handed at the time by witness.

His Lordship—This bill (produced) says you borrowed \$50 from the plaintiff?—No, my lord. I gave it to him simply to defeat the execution.

That's a rather serious matter:—The money was paid up shortly afterwards.

You say the plaintiff's story is absolutely trumped up?—It's purely a fabrication.

Plaintiff, recalled, was examined by his Lordship.

Don't you remember in what amount you lent these sums?—There are so many Europeans living in my houses who have always been in the habit of coming and borrowing a dollar or two that I can't remember dates. In this case I would not have prosecuted only the defendant lied to me so often. He made many promises, but never offered to pay me a cent.

He says you never lent him any money.—He would not give me an acknowledgment unless I lent him some.

You say his story is not true?—Certainly not.

His Lordship (to defendant)—You admit you handed over these papers to defeat an execution. That is a fraudulent purpose.

Defendant—It was not exactly fraudulent.

In that case why didn't you get these papers back at once?—I told defendant to tear them up. They were of no further use.

Judgment was entered for plaintiff.

Monday, January 11th.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE FATE OF A DISORDERLY HOUSE.

Re Stella Brumfield, Mr. O. D. Thomson made application for a receiving order. He stated that the liabilities were shown at \$2,200 and the assets to \$2,000. The assets consisted of household furniture and might be easily realised.

His Lordship—What is she?

Mr. Thomson—She is the keeper of a disorderly house at 49 Hollywood Road.

His Lordship—It is hardly worth bankruptcy. There is only a difference of \$200 between assets and liabilities.

Mr. Thomson—She is being pressed by one or two creditors. It is the only way.

His Lordship—I see it is the household furniture.

The application was granted.

A QUESTION OF COMPOSITION.

Re Ho Shui Chau, an application, for approval of composition. Mr. Wakeman, the Official Receiver, stated that the case had been before his Lordship for approval of a scheme of composition, and debtor had asked that the matter might be brought up again.

It was decided that the matter be brought up again.

A QUESTION OF TIME.

In the matter of Chan King, the well known contractor, Mr. Holborrow appeared and asked for further time in order that the debtor might make a statement of his affairs. He believed that he could meet all his liabilities.

Mr. Harston agreed and the time was extended another three weeks.

A DANCING MASTER'S POSITION.

Re J. H. Pidgeon.

His Lordship remarked that there was no statement of liabilities.

Mr. Goldring, who appeared for the debtors said there was no need for it on a debtor's petition. The usual \$100 had been paid to the Official Receiver.

His Lordship.—The usual course is to give the Court some notion as to what the facts are.

Mr. Goldring.—Provided enough money was paid to meet the expense the order was usually made.

His Lordship.—Oh, no. There should be a statement of liabilities.

Mr. Goldring.—I thought that was only in the case of a petitioning creditor.

His Lordship.—Provided the court is satisfied.

Mr. Goldring.—As your Lordship pleases.

The matter was adjourned.

CAPTAIN MITCHELL'S AFFAIRS.

Thomas Alexander Mitchell, master mariner, attended for his public examination in bankruptcy. Mr. Steavenson, of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, watched the proceedings on behalf of the debtor and Mr. Grist was present in the interests of Messrs. Ewens and Harston, who were creditors.

Debtor said he was a master mariner in command of the *Fook Sang* and had been captain in the company's service for ten years. His salary was £37-10 per month. In the statement of his affairs his liabilities were put at \$18,829. He had incurred that amount through a divorce action in the court of Scotland. It hung on for a long time and the liabilities were for lawyers' fees. The claim by John Robert Calver for \$3,812 was the defendant's costs which were given against debtor as the Scottish Court had no jurisdiction out of Scotland. The claim by Taylor and Rorie were the costs of his own lawyers. Of the claim of \$3,500 by Messrs. Jardine Matheson and Company, \$2,000 was money lent to him by the firm while he was going on with the proceedings in Hongkong. The other \$1,500 was a bond which he entered into with Mr. Keswick, that gentleman having advanced the money to assist him in the action taken in the Supreme Court. The claim by Captain Austin for \$1,000 was also in respect of the divorce proceedings. The same applied to the claim for Mr. Veitch for \$500, and the claim of \$8,425 by Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon was in respect of his own costs. He had no assets beyond his pay except a life insurance policy for £2,000 which he had assigned to Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon. He had only taken out the policy two years. He did so for the purpose of protecting his creditors. He was still keeping up the policy. He assigned it to Mr. Looker by way of a mortgage in order to secure any monies he might be owing Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company.

His Lordship.—They can hardly be described as unsecured creditors.

The Official Receiver.—The policy is a new one and has no surrender value at the present time.

His Lordship.—It seems to me in the event of the policy being paid the demands on the estate would be cleared.

The Official Receiver.—Yes, in the event of his death.

His Lordship.—It is a peculiar position.

The Official Receiver.—He proposes to ask for adjudication.

His Lordship.—If there is a discharge the policy must go. It reverts.

The Official Receiver.—He has made a verbal proposal. He asks for adjudication. He asks for adjudication and offers to keep up these premiums on this policy himself.

His Lordship.—The difficulty is this. The policy will cover all the liabilities.

Mr. Grist said he appeared for Messrs Ewens and Harston. He objected very much to the debtor paying the premiums on this policy out of the pockets of the general body of creditors for the benefit of those two secured creditors. He had no right to do so and the policy ought either to be sold or surrendered.

His Lordship.—It can't.

Mr. Grist.—Then let it lapse. Captain Mitchell has run into a great deal of expense in defending actions that were not worth defending.

His Lordship.—From what I know of the affair it is hardly Captain Mitchell's fault.

Mr. Grist.—I am not dealing with that particular branch. I refer to the action brought against him to recover costs in the Scotch courts. He ran up expense to my clients of \$700 in unnecessary and frivolous defence. Now he comes and offers to pay \$100 a month. How many years will it take to pay off his liabilities at that rate. I submit Captain Mitchell has not dealt with his creditors in a way that we should have thought he would have. Here is a case where costs are given against him. Instead of consenting to judgment he fights it and runs up a great deal of expense irrespective of the other action in which he would have to pay the whole costs.

His Lordship.—It appears to me there is something not quite regular. I do not see how creditors who have an insurance policy in their hands can be described as unsecured.

The Official Receiver.—It proves as an unsecured creditor.

His Lordship.—They must surrender the policy. It is quite clear that the proceedings at present are irregular. There is a preference of \$100 a month to these two creditors.

The Official Receiver.—He is allowed to do as he likes with his salary.

Mr. Grist.—certainly not. He is entitled to sufficient sustenance out of his salary.

Mr. Steavenson said they viewed this question of the mortgage of the insurance policy as of no security whatever. The policy was a new one and had no surrender value. It was only a security in the event of his death. Owing to the fact of Captain Mitchell's precarious life at sea they thought it would be well for the general body of creditors, as also for themselves, if Captain Mitchell took out an insurance policy.

His Lordship.—It seems to me you cannot hold it.

Mr. Steavenson.—It is not for our individual benefit. It is for the benefit of the general body of creditors. There is a clause in the deed of mortgage that it is for the benefit of the general body of creditors. As to frivolous defence mentioned by Mr. Grist he had not stated the case correctly. We were advised by counsel that the assignation in this case was bad because the consideration mentioned in the deed was not sufficient. The action was practically disregarded.

Mr. Grist.—The defendant got a receiving order which was stay of proceedings, otherwise the action would have been proceeded with.

His Lordship.—It remains for the creditors to arrange a scheme.

Mr. Grist indicated that he would like to ask the debtor a few questions.

How long have you been in the employ of the company as captain?—Nearly ten years.

And during that time you have been drawing a salary of £37 10s?—No, the salary varies from the start until ten years.

How much had you when you started first?—£30 a month.

That has gradually risen to the present time?—Yes.

His Lordship.—What were the dates of the proceedings in Scotland?—They started in 1906 and concluded in 1906.

For these ten years you have been in receipt of a salary of upwards of £30 a month. I take it the ship supplies you with board and lodgings. You have only to supply yourself with clothing?—Yes.

What do you spend generally for clothing? About \$100 a month?—More than that. Clothing, I should say, costs me over \$200 a month.

Your own personal expenses, I mean?—I would put them down at \$200 a month.

How do you spend it?—I don't quite know. I lead a very quiet life. I spend all my spare time on board the steamer. I am a strict teetotaler, but still my expenses go up.

How?—I could not tell you. I call at nine ports on the run from Yokohama to Calcutta. I have expenses in all these ports, and I find that to keep up my position runs me up to \$200 a month.

Are you not making a mistake?—No.

You are at sea four out five days?—Oh, no.

How much of your time are you at sea?—Not one half.

Supposing your expenses come to \$200 a month, you can pay \$200 to the Official Receiver?—I have my mother and three sisters at home, and I occasionally send something to them.

Are they dependent upon you?—Not entirely.

Are these presents of money included in the \$200 a month?—No, I should say more than \$200 a month.

His Lordship.—The other creditors are litigation creditors?

Mr. Grist.—They are creditors, and every effort should be made to pay them. No man has a right to live extravagantly when part of the money ought to go to his creditors. What right has a man to make presents when he is a debtor? These creditors have just as much right to be paid as any other.

His Lordship.—The man has to keep up his position.

Mr. Grist.—He offers \$100 monthly. That is \$1200 a year. It will take him fifteen years to pay off his liabilities. I submit that your Lordship should make an order for him to pay \$200 a month. (To debtor). Do you pay the premiums every month?—No, every quarter.

Since this petition you have paid one or two premiums?—Two or three.

Mr. Grist.—That should not be. If they have taken up this policy they must keep up the premiums themselves. It should not be taken out of the estate.

His Lordship.—The policy covers the whole of the debts.

Mr. Grist.—Yes.

His Lordship.—It meets the claims of all the creditors.

Mr. Grist.—No, my Lord. There is no mention of the other creditors. After payment is made to Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, and Jardine, Matheson and Co. the balance goes back.

His Lordship.—If the assignment is for the general body of creditors there is no very great objection.

Mr. Grist.—If the assignee will transfer it to the Official Receiver for the benefit of the creditors I should not object.

His Lordship.—There is no doubt the policy is big enough to cover the whole of the debts. If an arrangement could be made for carrying out.

Mr. Grist.—Meanwhile the claim of the creditors mentioned is the first charge upon it.

His Lordship.—I don't think it is possible to close the public examination. It seems to me that the matter rests with the creditors to make some scheme among themselves.

The Official Receiver.—I understand the debtor intends to apply for adjudication.

His Lordship.—Has there been a meeting of creditors?

The Official Receiver.—Yes. It was resolved that he be adjudicated bankrupt.

His Lordship.—What would the result be?

The Official Receiver.—Everything goes to the trustee.

His Lordship.—They cannot prove as unsecured creditors and retain the policy.

The Official Receiver.—That is so.

His Lordship.—I think we can close the examination.

The Official Receiver and Mr. Grist said they had no objection.

Mr. Steavenson asked that Mr. F. B. Deacon be appointed trustee.

Mr. Grist objected.

His Lordship said the matter had better rest with the Official Receiver.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

INTIMIDATING A WITNESS.

Mr. D'Almada e Castro, who appeared for the plaintiff, in a promissory note case stated that he had sub-poenaed a witness, who that morning came to him and said he had been warned that if he gave evidence he would be assaulted.

The witness, on being called, confirmed this statement, saying that somebody told him not to come.

His Honour—Who was that?—Li Chun told me not to be a witness.

Is he in court?—Yes.

Li Chun was called, and his Honour told him he could only suppose that if he said what was alleged to the witness it was only through ignorance. Any endeavour to tamper with a witness was a very serious offence indeed. As he had apparently done it in ignorance he would not be dealt with, but he warned him not to interfere with the witness between then and Friday—the day for the hearing of the case.

Wednesday, January 13th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

ACTION FOR TRESPASS.

Wong Shi, a single woman, sued Leung In She, for \$1,000 damages for trespass and for the unlawful conversion by the defendant of the plaintiff's share in the Wo Fung firm in Hung-hom. From the writ it appeared that prior to November 2nd last year she was the owner of a \$500 share in the Wo Fung grocery store at Hung-hom, standing to her credit in the name of Hop Shing Tong Wong Shi. On Oct. 11th, the defendant, without her knowledge, and by misrepresentation, caused a prohibitory order to be issued against the said share in a Summary Court action in which defendant was plaintiff and afterwards issued execution and sold her share. Plaintiff was represented by Mr. S. Dixon from the office of Mr. Harding and defendant was represented by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton.

Evidence having been given by the plaintiff,

Mr. Brutton took the objection that a sale by order of the court was absolute. Objection should have been taken to the sale within the time allowed—ten days after the sale.

Mr. Dixon said he was not seeking to set aside the sale. He was claiming damages for trespass.

Mr. Brutton said she should have taken steps to have protected her property.

Mr. Dixon replied that she was not aware of what was being done.

The defence was a denial of misrepresentation and an assertion that the sale was regular.

His Lordship said he was with Mr. Brutton as to the point of law but he would like to hear further argument on the facts and adjourned the case.

THE YUVARAJAH OF MYSORE.

The N.Y.K. steamer *Awa Maru* with His Highness the Yuvarajah of Mysore and his suite on board arrived early on the 11th instant. When the vessel dropped anchor in the harbour, Captain Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., boarded her to welcome His Highness on behalf of H. E. the Governor. His Highness paid an official visit to His Excellency the Governor, who invited him to tiffin or dinner. The Yuvarajah, however, declined the honour, caste preventing his acceptance of the invitation. His Excellency much regretted that he could not accommodate the visitor at Government House, owing to the serious illness of Lady Lugard.

In the afternoon, however, the Yuvarajah was pleased to pay a visit to Sir Paul Chater's residence to inspect that gentleman's valuable collection of Chinese porcelain. He was accompanied on this visit by Miss Henniker and Captain Mitchell-Taylor, and later the same guides took him for a tram ride as far as Shankiwan, the object of the trip being to show the guest some of the sights of the city.

ST. STEPHEN'S GIRLS' SCHOOL.

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

His Excellency the Governor, who was accompanied by Captain Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., presided at the annual prize distribution of the St. Stephen's Girls' College and Preparatory School on Jan. 12. The small hall in which the event took place was prettily decorated, but was not large enough to accommodate all who came, consequently there was some crowding at the doors. Among those present were His Lordship Bishop Lander, the Revs. E. J. Barnett, J. H. France, A. J. Bunbury, Mrs. S. W. Tse and the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai.

The proceedings opened with a lengthy programme of songs and recitations by the scholars. The Rev. Mr. BARNETT then read Miss Carden's report in which it was stated that the School sent their first candidate for the Oxford Local Examination this year. The candidate was Wan Suk Ching, daughter of Dr. Wan Tuen Mo, and she succeeded in passing the junior test in every subject presented. Miss Wan was to be congratulated upon being, so far as could be ascertained, the first Chinese girl to have her name placed on the Oxford junior list.

Mr. BARNETT then gave the following brief history of the school:—It is almost four years since St. Stephen's Preparatory School was opened in one room at Breezy Point, with five small boys and girls, under the care of Miss Carden. A year later premises were rented at 33, Caine Road, the name being changed to St. Stephen's Preparatory and Girls' School. Soon, however, girls predominated, and, to be in keeping with its present character, the name was once again varied and now reads:—St. Stephen's Girls' College and Preparatory School. Steadily the school increased in numbers and proficiency until recently there has risen a demand for accommodation for boarders. The former house was not convenient for this purpose. Consequently, in consultation with the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and Mr. S. W. Tse, the Committee was glad to consider a plan for extension. Seeing that the Church Missionary Society does not provide funds for carrying on this school, neither do the parents of pupils desire the Society to do so, the proposal for expansion brought the Committee face to face with serious financial responsibilities. At this juncture Chinese gentlemen came forward with the suggestion that the financial risk attending removal into these larger premises should be guaranteed in equal parts by the College Council and by certain parents of the pupils. This proposal having been accepted on both sides, the building was secured on lease, and the further question of furnishing was solved by a proposal from our liberal friends that they should provide about \$1000 for this purpose. It is characteristic of these Chinese parents that when a list of furniture was supplied amounting to \$1500, they did not only not object to their free-will offering being increased fifty per cent., but they even went beyond this larger sum, with the result that to-day we are not obliged to meet in an unfurnished house.

The Church Missionary Society provides the Principal of the Girls' College whom parents and pupils have learnt to value so highly. The Society is also sending out Miss Hunt to assist. The School itself provides three other lady teachers, who have already been mentioned in the report. That this endeavour to meet the present needs of the Girls' College is appreciated by those for whom the school is intended, needs no further proof than is afforded by the list of gifts appended.

Every one of these gifts represents so much interest in the school: every one of them is gladly acknowledged and valued. And the Committee warmly thanks every lady and gentleman who has so generously come forward and shared in the burden of the weightier responsibilities which the school has undertaken. There is but one regret to record to-day; that is the absence of the Venerable Archdeacon of Hongkong. Archdeacon Banister has throughout taken the keenest interest in the welfare of the school, and has ministered in no small degree to its progress. Much to their disappointment, he and Mrs. Banister were

obliged to leave for England before the opening of this building. They will be much missed. It will however be a special satisfaction to parents to know that the places vacated on the school committee by Archdeacon and Mrs. Banister are to be filled by no less distinguished persons than the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Victoria and Mrs. Lander. This evidence of their interest in the welfare of the Chinese young ladies of Hongkong will certainly not pass unappreciated.

His LORDSHIP the BISHOP, before calling upon the Governor to present the prizes, remarked that by his presence there that day he was helping them to inaugurate that building. The Church Missionary Society realised now that there was a great opportunity for educational work not only among the boys, but among the girls of the East. The time had come when Chinese ladies desired the best possible education, and that afternoon's entertainment was an indication of the talent these young ladies possessed. The education at St. Stephen's would be based upon Christian morality and would concern good manners and propriety. All were delighted to see his Excellency present, but their great regret was that Lady Lugard, through indisposition, was not able to attend and give away the prizes. His Lordship was glad to hear from his Excellency, however, that she was better yesterday, and he hoped she would soon be about again.

HIS EXCELLENCY, who was greeted with applause as he arose, said—My Lord Bishop Ladies and gentlemen: As your Lordship reminded me just this moment, it is only a day or two ago since I had the pleasure and privilege of laying the foundation stone at St. Stephen's College for the extension of the new building, and of distributing the prizes. And I had then the pleasure of congratulating the supporters of the school, in the first place on the success of the school which made extension necessary, and in the second place on the facility with which they were able to raise the funds for the extension. To-day my task is an equally pleasant and very similar one, for to-day marks a new era in the life of St. Stephen's Preparatory School. To-day you come into larger premises, and you have a new name. As before at St. Stephen's College so now I am able to congratulate you on an extension of the school which has necessitated the acquisition of new premises; and also on the generosity of the supporters of the school who have come forward to give increased rent and to provide a fund for furnishing the building. I congratulate the principal, the staff and the school, especially on the signal success achieved by one of your scholars, Miss Wan—(applause), in passing the preliminary Oxford examination. As Mr. Barnett has told us, this is probably the first occasion upon which a Chinese girl has passed the Oxford examination in this Colony. That is an event of which this school, and indeed, the Chinese women in this Colony, may be proud, and I hope that in future years you will have more girls, names on the list of those who have successfully passed the Oxford examination. To mark my appreciation and pleasure at hearing this news I shall be glad, if permitted, to give a special prize to Miss Wan—(applause). I always take special interest in these schools which are self-supporting, and do not entirely speak as an harassed official who has to make both ends of the budget meet when there is not sufficient money. I speak from a wider point of view, because it seems to me that the wealthy Chinese gentlemen of the colony are glad to avail themselves of the educational facilities offered, and to come forward and pay the expenses of their sons and daughters in schools, neither dependent on the Mission funds nor on the taxpayer. Such is St. Stephen's and this girls' college. I listened the other day, when at St. Stephen's, to a warm eulogy pronounced by the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and Mr. Tse upon the warden of that college and the staff. I think that the principal of this Girls' College, and her assistants, merit no less praise than was bestowed the other day on the warden and staff of St. Stephen's (applause). And indeed, their works speak for them. The larger premises show increased confidence and appreciation by the parents and supporters of the school, who have come forward with these subscriptions, and the signal distinction which has been gained

by passing a pupil at the Oxford examination is a result which speaks for itself. While I listened the other day to what Dr. Ho Kai so eloquently said on the work of Mr. Barnett and his assistants, the thought came very fortunately to my mind what a duty not only St. Stephen's or this Girls' College, but many other good works in this Colony and most colleges and hospitals owed to the public spirit, personal generosity and unfailing energy of Dr. Ho Kai—(applause). I am glad to take this opportunity of testifying my own admiration and appreciation of what he has done, and is constantly doing. There is no good work in the Colony in which he has not taken a prominent part with the able assistance of his colleague on the Legislative Council, the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, also Mr. Tse and other Chinese gentlemen whose names are familiar to us, but the list is too long for me to recapitulate it now. I always feel that we can turn to them with confidence and reliance whenever anything makes for the good of their fellow countrymen. Ladies and Gentlemen, Lady Lugard my wife, asked me to express to you how deeply sorry she was that she was unable to be here this afternoon owing to serious illness, and she asked me to convey to the scholars and the staff of St. Stephen's her earnest hope for their success in the coming year, and to tell them how deeply interested she is in all that concerns this school. She believes, as I do, that the women of China in coming years must learn to appreciate the work in which their husbands are engaged; to intelligently and sympathetically share it; and to help them in framing the destinies of their country—whether it be the country of China, or whether it be this Colony of ours. No woman can be really a companion to her husband unless she can share, sympathetically and intelligently, in his actions and in the work which he has set himself to do. To do this it is necessary that she should have an education—an education which will enlarge her horizon and enable her to eradicate parochial prejudices, and to take a wider view of the work of the world, and the work in which her husband is engaged. I noted with great interest, from the report of the year read to us by Mr. Barnett, that among other subjects, which are taught in this College is domestic economy. I should like to know more precisely what that term covers. I hope it covers sanitation and hygiene of the home, intelligent care of children, sympathetic treatment of servants, the knowledge of simple domestic remedies for household ailments, and last but not least, I hope it covers instructions in the way in which a woman can make her home bright and attractive. I think, perhaps, that the last is the most important of all; that a woman should make her home reflect the qualities which she herself possesses, the cultivation and refined taste which education bring with it. This then, is the advice which I would give the pupils of this College: that they should endeavour to prepare themselves for what, I think, is the best work woman can do in this world—that is, to share intelligently and sympathetically in her husband's work, and to endeavour to set before him by her ideals and her standards of duty, the art of making their home bright and attractive; as attractive and bright as they themselves. I wish you all a happy new Chinese year, and I wish all the pupils of this College, and the staff of the College, pleasant holidays.

HIS EXCELLENCY then proceeded to distribute the prizes to successful pupils.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE.

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The annual prize giving of the Diocesan School and Orphanage took place at noon yesterday, when His Excellency the Governor presided. Seated on the platform with His Excellency were His Lordship Bishop Lander, Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Rev. F. T. Johnson and Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, while the large attendance included the Rev. T. W. and Mrs. Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Braidwood, Rev. C. H. and Mrs. Hickling, Rev. A. D. Stewart, Rev. J. A. and Mrs. Bunbury, Miss Henniker,

Hon. Dr. Atkinson and Mr. Sin Tak Fun.

HIS EXCELLENCY was then asked by His Lordship the Bishop to make a few remarks. He said—My Lord Bishop, Ladies and gentlemen, and boys of the Diocesan School: Last year when I distributed the prizes here I said it was usually the good fortune of whoever had this pleasant task to perform to congratulate the school on continued progress, and on achievements which put in the shade those of the year before. I am glad to say that I can place it on record this year that this progress has not only been maintained, but has been increased in a very marked manner. I take the figures of the last four years. The attendance—that is average attendance, not merely enrollment—in 1905 was 195; next year it was 222; next 226; this year it has jumped to 242. In the preliminary Oxford examination in 1905, 17 passed; next year 12; the next 15; and this year 18, which, as the headmaster told us, is the largest number which the school has ever succeeded in passing. These are results which the staff and the boys may be very proud of, and of which we, throughout the whole Colony are proud. The headmaster, last year in his report told us that the school very greatly needed an extended building, as I saw for myself when I had been over the premises. More especially, he said that extensions were required for the boarders. The accommodation for boarders is, as you have heard, limited to 89, and I most cordially agree with the headmaster and the remarks of the committee recorded in their report that the most valuable work done in the school has been done in respect of boarders. I said last year that I hoped that the powerful committee which manages this school would be able to devise means by which this extension might be undertaken. But we know that during past years calls have been many, and money has been, as it is called, tight. But I hope that during the coming year we may be more fortunate, and that the committee may be able to put this extension in hand. It is, ladies and gentlemen, a very striking thing that so many schools in this Colony are increasing so rapidly that it is becoming necessary that their buildings should be increased and extended. Within the last day or two I have had the pleasure of laying the foundation stone of an extension of St. Stephen's College, and also of inaugurating new premises for St. Stephen's girls' College. The Government District Schools at Wanchai and Saiyingpun have been, during the last year considerably increased, while the Ellis Kadoorie school, which recently largely increased its building, is already becoming cramped again. Queen's College is at its wits end to accommodate all its scholars, and I fear we shall have to reduce the numbers in order to prevent unsanitary overcrowding. Now, while these remarkable facts bear evidence of the appreciation of the primary and secondary education afforded in this Colony, they also compel us to consider whether the needs of a higher education for the senior boys in the top forms, and for those who have proved their ability by passing the Oxford examinations, have been sufficiently provided for. As I think you all know, we have this matter at present under serious consideration. Referring to the report which we have just heard read, and also referring to the report of the Inspector of Schools which has not yet been read, but which I have had the pleasure of looking over, I see that the Inspector of Schools says the discipline and organisation of the School are highly satisfactory. He says also that the vernacular classes which have been instituted during the past year, have been successful; and it is, I am sure you will agree with me, a very important matter that Chinese scholars should be able to read and write their own language. He has reported too, that the school is thoroughly efficient. Among the salient points in these reports of the progress during the past year is the fact of the increase of the numbers of assisted scholars, that is to say those whose fees are paid or partly paid by subscribers. In 1906 the number was 59, in 1907 it increased to 65. This shows the appreciation and approbation of the public who generously subscribed in order to enable a certain number of boys who were not able to pay the fees of the school to take advantage of the education offered. To that subscription list I shall be very glad to add my own name

(applause). We have heard from Mr. Piercy that the school cricket team is exceptionally strong this year. Last year when I distributed the prizes I made the suggestion that we should institute a competition for second elevens. Mr. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, has had this proposal under his consideration during the past year, and with the committee from the various schools has decided that the competition will be best for football, as in this the largest number of schools can be represented. So soon as matches have been organised the cup will be ready for the winning team in the second eleven competition. I wish you boys of the Diocesan School every success in the competition for the second eleven football cup (applause). Your holidays are just beginning, boys, and you will have lots of leisure for sports of every kind. I hope the weather may be propitious, and I hope you will have happy and pleasant holidays, and that at the beginning of next term you will come back resolved to maintain the high traditions of this school as being the most successful in the Colony in the Oxford and Cambridge examinations, and one of the first in every form of competition, whether in school work or in sport. While you rightly place the reputation of your school first and foremost in your thoughts you will not forget that this school is part of a British Colony, that it is due to the liberal institutions under which you live that this school, this cosmopolitan school in which British, Portuguese, Chinese and Eurasians all meet in equal terms and in friendly rivalry, that this school has been able to increase and prosper as it has done. You are justly proud of your school, and you should be justly proud of the Colony in which you live. Be jealous of its reputation, and I hope you will all be eager when you grow up to take part in its institutions and bear your share in promoting its prosperity and in maintaining its good name. I wish you a very pleasant holiday, and a very successful year to come both in your school work and in your sports.

The PRINCIPAL then read the report of the Inspector of Schools and the Rev. C. F. Thompson's scripture report, both of which were very satisfactory. Mr. WOLFE returned the schools as thoroughly efficient, and recommended a grant at the rate of 35/-.

On the conclusion of the reading of these reports HIS EXCELLENCY presented the prizes.

ANGLO-CHINESE DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

On the 15th instant the presentation of prizes in connection with the Anglo-Chinese Schools at Wanchai Sai-yang-pun and Yaumati and also the Anglo-Indian School at Belilios Reformatory took place. At the last named school where there was a good attendance of ladies and gentlemen interested in education, Mr. WOLFE, Inspector of Schools, presided and there were also present Messrs. A. Morris, S. R. Moore and Young Hee, headmasters, and Mesdames Young Hee and Moore.

The proceedings were not confined to the formal prize giving. Boys from each schools gave a display of their elocutionary ability, the recitations being decidedly quaint and interesting.

Mr. WOLFE, in the course of his remarks, referred to the growing popularity of the Anglo-Chinese schools as was indicated by the fact that the three district schools and Queen's College and Ellis Kadoorie were all taxed to their utmost; not only had the numbers increased but there was also a marked increase in their efficiency. The large schools, he pointed out, were ousting the smaller ones, due to the fact that the latter could not afford to provide instructors in English, St. Stephen's being practically the only private Anglo-Chinese school. The district schools at Wanchai and Saiyingpun had been enlarged and now Yaumati wished extension. He was sure if the Government thought it was necessary they would provide the additional accommodation. Proceeding, Mr. WOLFE said he found the work of the three schools was very satisfactory, but indicated that the boys in English colloquial did not frame their answers on the model of the questions set. The Anglo-Chinese masters, though labouring under difficulties, appeared efficient. Geography, mathematics and brush work were all good, but the results in

hygiene were not quite so satisfactory as last year, though if the boys had been set to a test examination they would all have passed. Since the redistribution of the classes these were much improved. Alluding to the pupil teachers' examination, for the education department, there were six elected out of 53 candidates, which was very creditable indeed. Admission to Queen's College was now by open competition and as it was desired that these schools should be feeders for that institution pupils who made 50 per cent. in their school examinations received a priority of entrance. There were no less than 14 from Yauinai who were eligible for admission, eight from Wantai and 21 from Saiyingyun, which was very creditable. Referring to the Anglo-Indian School, he said they had overcome the difficulty of getting a headmaster and the school was doing good work. The discipline in the lower classes might be better.

Mrs. MAY having distributed the prizes, was handed a beautiful bouquet and the proceedings terminated with the scholars singing the National Anthem.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

THE ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with Queen's College took place on the 15th inst., when His Excellency the Governor presided. Among the large number in attendance were His Lordship Bishop Lander, Captain Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, Private Secretary, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Inspector of Schools, Hon. Mr. E. A. Irvine, Registrar-General, Miss Henniker, Mr. J. J. Leiria, Consul-General for Portugal, Rev. E. J. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Craig, Rev. T. W. and Mrs. Pearce, Rev. Bro. Christian, director of St. Joseph's College, Mr. A. Mackenzie, Mrs. and Miss Chatham and Mrs. Tatcher.

Mr. T. K. DEALY, the headmaster, read the report as follows:—During the past year, 1270 scholars have been on the roll. The average daily attendance was 911. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1418 and 1005 respectively. The lower numbers for 1908 are due partly to a recrudescence of plague in the middle of the year, when many boys left the Colony by the direct orders of their parents; partly to the authorised introduction of an age limit for admission; but mainly to the welcome reduction in the size of classes, as recommended by the Governing Body and sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor. With respect to the age limit, it may be remarked that no boy over 15 English years will henceforward be admitted to Class VI; allowing for a year in each class, no boy over 20 years of age can be admitted to Class I. In course of time, as our present over age boys are eliminated, we shall have classes composed of boys of fairly uniform age. This regulation must unfailingly bring about great improvement in class work. Boys of the same age pull together far better not only in the school-room but in the play-ground.

Attendance, on the whole, continues regular. More stringent rules with regard to leave are being gradually introduced, and it is earnestly to be hoped that parents and guardians will endeavour to see that these are rigorously observed. Boys at school should neither be expected nor encouraged to apply for leave to be present at minor family functions, such as the birthdays and marriages of relatives. The utmost regularity is absolutely essential if real progress is to be made. It seems absurd that a boy should be summoned by his parents from the strenuous routine of school life, to his distant native village, merely to participate in a house-warming. Such applications have been received.

No doubt, among the many matters Chinese that need reform, is that of early marriage. I had in my office recently a candidate for matrimonial honours who was but 16 years old! Comment is needless.

The average age of applicants for marriage ranges between 19 and 20. It is notorious that such boys, almost without exception, lose position in class. The young wife is generally left behind in the country with the parents, but the

youth has formed new ties and new interests: his mind is distracted at a time when it should be wholly devoted to study.

School was in session during 224 instead of 221 days. The Typhoon which passed over the Colony in the night between the 27th and 28th July unroofed the central part of the hall, and so damaged the west wing that it was deemed advisable to end the term and to hand the building over to the Public Works Department for immediate attention.

The year 1908, owing to this typhoon, is the only year in the annals of Queen's College during which there has been no session in the month of August.

A revised list of school holidays was approved by His Excellency the Governor in a minute dated 19th Nov. 1908. The chief point of notice is that the summer vacation has been extended a week and is now 38 instead of 31 days as before. Four whole day holidays have been abolished, so that the nett increase is one of three days. The change is one that is much appreciated by both staff and students.

The total gross expenditure, including a bonus of \$600 for colloquial Cantonese to Mr. de Martin, was \$70,717, or \$9,722 more than in 1907. This increase is attributable to the low rate of the dollar in the market, while, for purposes of exchange compensation in the estimates it had been calculated at 2/-.

The revenue of this establishment, in spite of our reduced numbers, shows an increase of \$667 over that of 1907. Towards the total cost of the maintenance of Queen's College, fees contribute 44 per cent. and the Government 56 per cent. This is clearly set forth in table IV, an addition to our statistical tables, and which is intended, eventually, to be a decennial return.

The following changes in the staff took place during the year:—Dr. Wright went to Europe on a much-needed and well-earned year's leave of absence on 8th April. This implied promotion of one step, down the whole staff, with the addition of an acting pupil teacher.

The effect of plague on our numbers has already been alluded to; otherwise, the general health of the students has been good; 17 boys have been off the roll, for varying periods, on account of scabies, and 22 for beri-beri. In obedience to Notification 232 of 16th April any boys suspected of eye-trouble have been sent to the Tung-Wa Hospital for report. Eleven cases were returned as suffering from trachoma in a mild form, and underwent treatment extending from 1½ to 6 months; 4 cases were returned as trachoma in a virulent form, and 3 as not trachoma. Boys with the mild form of this disease, provided they submit to treatment, are allowed to attend school; the virulent cases are sent away until cured. Examination and treatment of trachoma at the Tung-Wa Hospital are free of charge. As recommended by the notification, our floors are regularly mopped with a weak solution of Jeyes's Fluid, to lay dust and destroy germs. The examination of the eyes of the pupils of this College, made by Drs Jordan and Grone in 1907, showed that a large proportion of our boys suffered from trachoma in various stages. In the interests of health, it would be well if such a professional examination of the eyes of the entire school could be made annually, preferably after our winter vacation. Superficial lay observation, though ever so well-intentioned, cannot be expected to be thoroughly efficient in the case of such an infectious disease as trachoma.

At the last Oxford Local Examination our candidates obtained 12 certificates, the same number as in 1906. The percentage of passes was: Seniors 30 per cent., Juniors 33 per cent., and Preliminaries 67 per cent. One of our junior candidates was the only one in the Far East who passed in Higher Mathematics. Queen's College, being a day school only, is sadly hampered in the preparation of its boys for public and other examinations. A hostel, if established, would be a most beneficial addition. It does not seem out of place here to state that the delegates at Oxford are now prepared to examine senior candidates in Classical Chinese, and a pass in this subject, taken in conjunction with several other subjects, will exempt such candidates from responsions. They are also prepared to examine Preliminary Junior and Senior Candidates in Modern Chinese. This extension of the curriculum for Chinese students ought to give them a larger chance of success

in the future, enabling them to compete on more level terms with the boys in England.

Class VII, the last remnant of our Preparatory School, was abolished in 1907. The use of slates was also abandoned in our Lower School towards the end of the year.

The results of the annual examination for prizes and promotions held by me under Standing Orders from the Governing Body, are as under:

Upper School, 319 boys examined; 284, or 89 per cent. passed. Lower School, 514 boys examined; 470, or 91 per cent. passed. Total, 833 boys examined, and 554 or 90.5 per cent. passed.

The English subjects of reading, conversation dictation, grammar, composition and history, in the higher sections of each class, show clear evidence of careful teaching, and of equally careful attention on the part of the boys: the lower sections composed of less able boys, although generally, but not always gaining less marks, reach a satisfactory level. While referring to the subject of English, I would lay stress on the need for even greater care than is now shown in teaching the boys correct English sounds. The new and the modified sounds of the English alphabet that a Chinese boy has to acquire, are not many. They ought to be completely mastered before the boy leaves the Lower School; if not, he will be heavily handicapped when he enters the Upper School. An intelligent application of the principles of phonetics would surmount any difficulties to be met with on this score. The subject of phonetics may be described, not inappropriately, as the chemistry of spoken language. It has processes of analysis and processes of synthesis: it breaks down and builds up: it takes any given sound and resolves it into its ultimate constituent elements: it forms combinations, and shows exactly and scientifically which sounds, elementary or compound, are correct and which are incorrect. It checks errors by showing the real source of the error. It is the final touchstone of all absolutely correct speech, and is yearly acquiring new and increased value in the domain of pedagogy. No teacher's intellectual outfit can be regarded as approaching completion unless it includes some organised knowledge of this important branch of linguistics. If the Normal School be ever restarted, its curriculum ought to include this subject.

In geography, questions were set that called for application rather than for mere dry enumeration of geographical facts. The results were gratifying. Mathematics in I A and in classes III are good: in Class II very good. Elementary Algebra and geometrical drawing in Class IV both gave excellent results. Mensuration in Class II reached a high standard; in Class I this subject was but fair. The general intelligence paper set to Class I was well answered by I A only. Hygiene throughout Classes I to V was satisfactory. The non-Chinese boys in the Upper School take physiology and Elementary science in lieu of the two translation papers: they are divided into seniors and juniors. The results in each section can only be regarded as, fair, the uneven character of the answers being due to the fact that the boys come from different classes.

Optional classes vary considerably from year to year. This year the two classes for model and freehand drawing, taken by the Second Master, only comprised four students each. All passed creditably in freehand: one boy failed in model, the test being about equal to that of the Junior Oxford Local.

Boys taking trigonometry were divided into three sections—senior, junior and beginners. The one senior did a very creditable paper, getting 88 marks out of 100; 2 juniors out of 9 failed to come up to the required standard, and the 5 beginners all got through. The percentage for the entire class works out at 87 per cent., which may be considered highly satisfactory.

Queen's College entered a team of 10 boys for the Annual Hygiene Competition; we were placed third in the list recently issued.

The Normal Master, Mr. Tanner, in a carefully drawn up report addressed to me, says that the article and acting pupil teachers under his charge show the greatest eagerness in their work, and evince every desire to improve in their own particular studies. As a result of my own personal observation of them throughout the

year, coupled with the tests to which they are submitted in the course of the annual examination, I am fully able to endorse his appreciative remarks. He also points out the fluctuating character of this important section of our staff: thus, of 7 who composed the class at the beginning of the year, only 2 now remain, 2 others have been promoted to Assistant Masterships in the College, and 3 have left to better themselves. I may also add that impending changes—the creation of two extra classes, and one English master to go on leave soon after our reassembling, will mean further promotion of pupil teachers ere they have completed their articles of agreement. The only solution of this really difficult problem seems to be the opening of a Normal School, from whose students both Queen's College and the Education Department could draw a supply of trained teachers. The serious lack of properly trained and adequately-equipped Anglo-Chinese teachers is one which will be felt with increasing severity in the future, on account of the unceasing demand throughout the eighteen provinces for native teachers with a working knowledge of English.

In the vernacular school, 473 boys in 15 sections and 5 classes, were examined, 90 per cent. passing. Of this aggregate 175 in six sections are in the 5th or highest class; 96 in three sections in the 4th class; 105 in three sections in the 3rd class, and 30 in a single section in the 1st or lowest class. The proportion of boys in the highest vernacular class steadily increases year by year, and is a most gratifying testimony to the splendid efficiency of this side of our work. I may at this point aptly add that two of our visitors during the year, His Excellency the Junior Amban of Tibet, and the Consul-General for China in Australia, both of whom are distinguished old scholars of this college, quite independently of each other expressed to me their intense gratification at the restoration of vernacular studies to our curriculum.

During the past year 18 boys obtained employment in different departments of the local Government, 23 under the Chinese Imperial Government, 47 in professional and mercantile offices, and 74 in situations outside the Colony. These 162 boys are practically all from the Upper School, and from the nature of the case constitute the very pick of our scholars. While it is eminently flattering to know that we are thus furnishing the supply for a great demand, it is nevertheless disappointing, if not disheartening to a teacher to see his best boys drift away before the annual examination. I should at this juncture like to put on record two facts which sufficiently and amply proclaim the practical utility of the education we give. In September last, examinations were simultaneously held in Chinese and English, at Peking, Hankow, Shanghai, Foochow and Canton, for 36 scholarships tenable for 4 years, at the newly inaugurated Customs College at Peking. One of the examiners himself informed me that at Canton there were some 500 candidates; this will give an approximate idea of the total number of aspirants at all five centres. When the list of successful candidates was published, an analysis of its names discovered the fact that no fewer than 14 of the 36 names—i.e. 4 per cent of the entire list—were those of Queen's College boys, (applause) 13 of them appearing on this year's roll, while one had left us in September 1906. This unlooked-for success is one of the most remarkable recommendations we have ever received, and one of which we can all feel emphatically proud. More recently, at an examination of candidates for six prospective pupil teacherships for the local Education Department, five of the successful candidates were from our College. I mention these two facts because one must not too narrowly scan the results of an annual examination, particularly in the upper classes, which have been constantly drained of their best scholars during the year by the demand for boys to fill situations, leaving behind little more than the lees. Doubtless, when the mooted University is once established in our midst—as it will be sooner or later, and the sooner the better—boys who now leave us before their education is completed will strongly be tempted to stay on and prepare themselves for professional or scientific careers, which should then be within the comparatively easy reach of many to whom they

are now entirely inaccessible. This is but one of many sound and legitimate reasons why the appeal that has been issued for funds to endow and equip a local University should meet with early and ample support. It would be little short of a calamity educationally if the scheme so munificently started should be allowed to come to naught. Queen's College may hope, not unreasonably, to supply a large number of the matriculants in the future University of Hongkong.

The tennis, cricket, football and bathing clubs continue a lusty existence. The reading club, unhappily, and through circumstances out of present control, is temporarily discontinued. Gunner White, R.G.A., has succeeded Corporal Wade, R.G.A., who has left the colony. He is a capable and enthusiastic Drill Instructor.

We again gratefully acknowledge the generosity of all who so regularly contribute to the prize fund. As usual a full list of donors will be posted up on the announcement board at the entrance and later published in the College Journal, *The Yellow Dragon*.

HIS EXCELLENCY, before distributing the prizes, said—My Lord Bishop, Mr. Dealy Ladies and gentlemen: Before I proceed to make any observations on general subjects it will, I think, be fitting if I say a few words regarding the report, the most interesting report just read to us. You show, by your presence here to-day, your interest in this college, and I hope that in the remarks I shall make on the headmaster's report I may be able perhaps to present a few of the salient points in a somewhat clearer light, and to call your attention to those points which seem to me to be of most importance. Take first of all the figures we have heard of the average attendance and the enrolment of the college. We have heard that the enrolment has fallen to 1270 from an average of about 1400 in previous years, and that the average attendance has fallen to 911 from about 1000. In any other school I should find cause for much regret in these figures, but here it is the result of deliberate action and intention of Government in consultation with the governing body and the headmaster. The fact is that Queen's College is at present overcrowded; that it has more pupils than it has accommodation for. This, on the one hand, means a disregard of those rules of hygiene and sanitation, which we are endeavouring to teach, and on the other hand it means the formation of classes so large that it is impossible for one master to adequately control and deal with them. I have gone into this matter very fully during the past year, and discussed it with all those whose opinions on the subject are valuable, and they have all had an opportunity of expressing their views. The result has been to confirm my own view on the subject and a new departure will now be taken in Queen's College. The numbers will be reduced and the standard raised. I look forward with confidence to the future, to seeing a competition not only from the Government District Schools but from many of the branch schools of this Colony for entrance to this college, and a competition from Queen's College for entrance into the proposed University. The reduction will be effected by abolishing some of the lower classes and retaining the higher standards. It will proceed gradually by the introduction of dual and single desks in place of the desks which accommodate six scholars each, which are insanitary, and which tempt boys to overlook each other's work. We hope during the coming year to replace the whole of the desks in the upper school, and next year to replace the desks in the lower school. It will also be effected by the age limitation which the head master has told you of. The age will in future be limited in the lowest class to 15 years. That will produce a uniformity of ages in the different classes and will limit the maximum in the senior class to about twenty years. The headmaster told us he considers this will be a very great improvement and amongst other things it will have this effect: that it will eliminate some of the boys whose ages are much in excess of the average of the form, and it is among these boys that we have chiefly to complain of irregularity of attendance. But if the number of scholars in the college is reduced, and the staff remains as it is, it is obvious that the cost per head of each scholar will considerably increase. This is, in fact, as it should be, for Queen's College has

been considerably handicapped in regard to other schools in the colony by the proportion of its scholars. There are 26 classes and only nine English masters. It will result therefore in closer attention being paid to each of the boys in the class. The average cost of each pupil in the school has continually tended to increase for some years past. It now stands at \$43½ per head; eight years ago it was under \$15, and the average for the period was \$24. This is to say that it has nearly doubled. We have therefore considered that it was advantageous and beneficial to somewhat raise the fees in the college and they now stand at \$4 per annum for all the forms alike. This increase of fees has resulted, as the headmaster has told us, in somewhat increased revenue and reduced numbers. I have spoken at some length on this point because it constitutes a new departure in the history of Queen's College, but apart from the cost of each boy the cost of Queen's College as an institution has also tended to increase year by year. The proportion of revenue to expenditure now stands at 44 per cent. The average for the period of eight years is 56½ per cent. I hope that the small increase in fees will restore us to the former figure. But in any case it is inevitable that in a progressive Colony the cost of education should continuously to some extent increase. The taxpayer pays somewhat more for education, but he gets value for his money and he gets it in an enhanced degree. Look at the number of boys who have gained appointments under Government, in mercantile houses and elsewhere during the past year. The headmaster told us that during this year 162 boys left to take up appointments, more than half of whom took up appointments in the Colony. Last year the number stood at 93, and the year before it was 147, and this is irrespective of the large number of boys who have obtained appointments sometime after leaving the college, and who have been lost sight of. Probably few countries can see the result of the money laid out on education come back to them so quickly; for what would our merchants, and what, indeed, would our Government do, if it had not this source on which to draw for its clerks and for its various Chinese subordinate officers; and if the benefit to mercantile houses and to Government is so great through obtaining boys from Queen's College, how much greater will it be when we can obtain fully trained men who have taken degrees in a university course? In any case it is the duty of the state to expend an appreciable part of its revenue upon education. I think, if I recollect aright, that the proportion of revenue which we spend here on education is somewhere about three per cent, and I think I am right in saying that the proportion spent by the Indian Government is over five per cent, and the proportion spent in the United Kingdom is over ten per cent. We cannot therefore say that we spend an undue amount of the revenue upon this most important branch. The headmaster has alluded to some other minor matters which have taken place during the past year, if indeed we can call the institution of preventive measures for an epidemic disease like trachoma and a reorganisation of the holidays mere minor matters. To these I will add the institution of masters meetings at which every member of the staff of the college is able to put forward any proposals which seem to make for the good of the college; and these proposals are submitted by the headmaster with his comments to me. That, I consider a very important and a very beneficial institution. I have left myself but little time to allude to the school work of the year. We have heard that 90½ per cent. passed the headmaster's examination this year as against 94 per cent. last year, and 81 and 98 per cent. in the previous years. This, I think, we may consider as very satisfactory. It has exceeded the percentage of previous years with the exception of last year, and that in spite of the fact that the school had to contend during the past year with disorganisation both by a severe epidemic of plague and by the destruction worked to this building by the typhoon at the end of July. The headmaster has referred, with justifiable pride, to the success gained by the boys of Queen's College in the competition for open scholarships in the Customs Training College at Peking. He has also alluded to the success in the examination for pupil teachers

I heartily concur with him on the extreme importance of this branch of education in Queen's College. It should have our earnest consideration how we can promote and make more efficient the training of pupil teachers either by the institution of a normal school or by any other means. At the beginning of last year, 1st January 1908, there were seven pupil teachers here; there are now only two. I was glad to hear of the efficiency of the vernacular classes. I think any Chinese boy who claims to be educated must be able to read and write his own language. If the proposal for the institution of a university shall develop, and as I hope and trust and believe it will, into an accomplished fact, I hope that we may include an arts degree in which Chinese literature shall be one of the subjects of instruction (applause). I think that the example which has been shown by Oxford, of which the headmaster has just told us, that they are ready to examine in Chinese, and to exempt those who pass from responsions, should make us ashamed to lag behind in this Chinese College in Hongkong. I am, in fact, rapidly coming to the conclusion that in our university after the two subjects of applied science and medicine, which I think should come first, that the third should be an arts degree. A day or two ago I had the pleasure of a conversation with Professor Burton, a gentleman who has been sent to the Far East by the Chicago University to report whether the conditions in the Far East are such as would justify them in establishing a university. He is to be joined by the ex-Chancellor, and they intend to spend many months in examining this subject. I had a most interesting conversation on this particular point, and he strongly urged that in any university an arts degree was essential, and that it should include instruction in the ethics and history alike of Christianity and Confucianism (applause). Last year when I addressed you here I pointed out to the headmaster and staff of Queen's College the great importance, in my opinion, of teaching the principles of patriotism as I believe they are taught in Japan. I do not mean parochial patriotism, but the inculcation of sound principles of loyalty to the State to which we belong, whether that State be China or whether it be Hongkong. I hope that the words and advice I then gave have not been lost sight of during the past year. But I would urge you boys to distinguish between the right and wrong sort of patriotism. Patriotism means the love of one's country. It does not mean the hatred or jealousy of other countries (applause). It means a desire to bring into one's own country all that is best, and that makes for liberality and freedom of thought. It does not mean a childish sensitiveness and eagerness to take affront and to pick quarrels. It means loyalty to the rulers of the country, not secret cabals and intrigues against them for some chimerical and doubtful good purpose for the advantage of interested agitators. It means the loyal support of the measures introduced by those rulers for the general welfare, whether they are measures for sanitation or whether they are measures for the control of habits which are dirty or which are degrading. I hope, Sir, that you and your staff will inculcate these principles during the coming year, and I hope, boys, that you will learn the lessons: that you will learn to distinguish between what I call a right and a wrong sort of patriotism. I can assure you that it will be among the most valuable lessons that you will learn during your school career. I wish you all happy holidays and a happy new year. I shall now have much pleasure in proceeding to the pleasing task to which I have been asked to attend to-day, to distribute the prizes you have earned during the year (applause).

HIS EXCELLENCY then distributed the prizes after which he announced that the holidays ended on February 14th, and that the school would reopen on the 15th of that month.

The proceedings ended with cheers for the King, for His Excellency and Lady Lugard, for the visitors and for the headmaster.

One of the three men arrested in connection with the attempt to rob a visitor of \$200 in Queen's Road Central on Monday, was charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Jan. 13. He was found guilty on the evidence, convicted, and sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

A JAPANESE NOBLEMAN DISGRACED.

The Emperor of Japan has withdrawn the Imperial sanction of the engagement of Princess Kitashirakawa to Count Todo, and, as a disciplinary measure, it has been decided that the treatment pertaining to his rank as Count shall no longer be extended to him.

Japanese newspapers publish a statement on the subject attributed to Viscount Tani, one of the members of the Nobles Disciplinary Committee. The Viscount is quoted as saying that he sees no reason for observing privacy in this matter. The details are that Count Todo married an English lady during his student days abroad, and on his return to Japan he registered the fact, registering the divorce at the same time. Then, in order to conceal this incident, he changed his domicile from Honjo to Koishikawa, so as to have a clean record in the new register, after which precaution he proposed for the hand of Princess Take. At the meeting of the Disciplinary Council nobody was found to utter a word of excuse for such conduct. Very probably the Count had been badly advised, but that his conduct was unbecoming a nobleman, there could be no question. As to the punishment recommended by the Council, namely, suspension of treatment as a peer, the Viscount explains that this is usually for a fixed term of years, at the expiration of which the offender is reinstated if he has given evidence of a sincere desire to maintain the dignity of his Order. In this case, however, no such period was fixed: the duration of the sentence was indefinite, and it is entirely uncertain when Count Todo will be able to resume the use of his title. There are many instances, the Viscount says, of dissolute conduct on the part of Japanese students studying abroad, but very few men in the position of gentlemen have disgraced themselves so thoroughly as Count Todo has done.

Referring to the fact that, according to the published accounts, Count Todo divorced his English wife simultaneously with the registration of the marriage, a correspondent has asked the *Japan Mail* whether divorce is such a simple and one-sided affair in Japan. Our contemporary replies: It used to be very simple and very one-sided under the old regimen, but the new Civil Code introduced a drastic change, and the meagre accounts hitherto published as to Count Todo's procedure must not be interpreted literally. In order to effect a lawful divorce in Japan one of two conditions is essential; either the wife must be a consenting party, or the judgment of a court of law must be obtained. In Count Todo's case the latter condition was not fulfilled, and we must therefore assume that the former was satisfied, for unless it had been clearly shown that the requirements of the code had been complied with, registration would not have been possible. Some accounts speak of the lady as enjoying a certain position, but others lead us to infer that she is an adventuress, whose consent to either wedlock or divorce was not difficult to obtain. At all events it may be hoped that Count Todo's example will prove a warning to students visiting foreign countries, and will be interpreted as an Imperial condemnation of relations so lightly contracted and so lightly severed.

In another comment on the matter our contemporary says—Of course, nothing is known by the public as to the character of the lady concerned, but we gather from statements attributed to the officers of Count Todo's household that she was a consenting party, and that the reason of the divorce was recognition of the fault committed in failing to obtain Imperial sanction. We are led to believe that the Count, who, after all is only a student of 23 years of age, contracted the union hastily without being aware of the necessity of seeking Imperial sanction, and that, when that serious error was discovered, no course seemed to be open except judicial separation. It is denied emphatically that the divorce had for object a union with the princely house of Kitashirakawa. The divorce took place in August, and the project of the Kitashirakawa marriage did not come upon the tapis until October. As for the change of domicile which was at first regarded as a deliberate attempt to conceal the facts, it is said to have been a mere

matter of convenience in locality, and it is pointed out that to invest it with a deceitful character is extravagant. The young Count himself, however, offers no excuses of any kind. He is said to have fallen ill, but for the rest he accepts his punishment in silence.

HONGKONG PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather conditions, the first concert of the Philharmonic Society for the new year, held in St. George's Hall on Jan. 8th, proved an entire success, both from a musical and a spectacular point of view. The bleak, uninviting weather did not warrant the large attendance present, but those who braved the elements were amply repaid by the excellence of the programme, which was largely drawn from the works of Elgar, the English composer who has recently attracted so much attention at home, and to whose compositions the orchestra of the Philharmonic Society did ample justice. His Excellency the Governor anticipated being present, but was detained owing to the illness of Lady Lugard. Government House, however, was represented by Captain Mitchell-Taylor A.D.C., Mr. A. J. Brackenbury, Private Secretary, and Miss Henniker.

After the orchestral opening selection "Chanson de matin," followed the part song "Old Neptune" by the choristers, which was greatly appreciated. Mrs. Grove and Mr. Denman Fuller came next with a fantasia (two pianos) by Gurlitt, an item displaying the musical abilities of the performers and deserving the applause which followed their effort. A hearty reception awaited Mrs. E. G. Barrett as she took the stage to sing "My love for you" and "The dawn of Joy," two songs for which Mr. Denman Fuller composed the music. To the capable accompaniment of that gentleman and the Orchestra Mrs. Barrett did full justice, and the encores which followed her song bore sufficient testimony to its merit. Mr. Frank Grove's fine voice was heard to advantage in the song "Britain ask thyself." Backed by a powerful male-voiced chorus, it proved an excellent item, and there was ample evidence that it was appreciated by the auditors.

After the interval the Orchestra re-opened the programme with "Chanson de Nuit" by Elgar, which was much appreciated. The Serenade "Lady Rise" (Smart) followed and was sung without accompaniment by Mesdames Edwards and Goldsmith and Messrs. Edwards and Beavis with much acceptance and considerable applause, to which the quartette responded by successfully repeating the last two verses. The chorus and orchestra again took up the attention of the audience with "To Sylvia," a selection from one of Shakespeare's works put to music by Schubert. Mrs. Grove and Mr. Denman Fuller supplied the next item "Scherzo Capriccioso" (two pianos) and well filled the breach which would have been otherwise occasioned, for Mrs. Cochrane was unable to appear through indisposition. "Choral Fantasia" comprising ten old English airs (Vincent) by the chorus and orchestra completed a highly classical and thoroughly excellent concert.

INDIAN ITEMS.

In view of the abnormal excessive depression in the English Piece Goods trade, in Bombay, the native merchants and traders connected with it, have petitioned the Governor-General, Lord Minto, praying for an exemption from the operations of the Income Tax for two years.

Out of the 13,000 chests of Malwa opium allowed by the Indian Government to be exported to China in the year 1909, the P. & O. s.s. *Devanha*, which is bringing out the next English Mail, has on board more than half the quantity, say nearly 7,500 chests.

The plague in the Bombay Presidency claimed last year 100,000 victims. The 161 municipalities in the Presidency have spent 7½ lakhs of rupees on sanitary works, chiefly water and drainage.

THE CALAMITY IN ITALY.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

The service held at St. Joseph's R. C. Church in connection with the great calamity in Italy was celebrated by the Right Reverend Bishop Pozzoni, assisted by Fathers Spada, Noval, and others, besides the Seminarists.

Amongst those present were: Right Reverend Bishop J. Clemente of Amoy, with his secretary, Rev. Father Fourquet, representing Mons. Mérel of Canton, Rev. Father Robert, Rev. Father Brun, Watson, Brother Christian of St. Joseph's College and the Rev. Sisters of the Italian Convent. The Italian Consul General, Comm. Z. Volpicelli, Marquis Cusani-Visconti, Commander of H.M.S. *Puglia*, Captain Taylor, representing H.E. the Governor, who regretted he was unable to be present, Commander Grenfell representing the Commodore, with several Naval Officers, Members of the Consular Body, the Italian colony, several ladies, amongst whom were Mesdames Volpicelli, Bribosia, Marty, Berindoague and Blanch, and the Officers and sailors of the *Puglia* and the sailors on the *Capri* who are being sent home.

The ceremony commenced with Chopin's Funeral March played by the organist of the Cathedral, Mr. O. Baptista, who, though informed at very short notice, kindly hurried to play in St. Joseph's Church. The whole congregation remained standing, until Bishop Pozzoni asked them to be seated, when he delivered a short sermon, of which we gave a brief translation:—"It was my intention as well as that of my Clergy, to celebrate a solemn Requiem Mass for those who perished in our terrible national calamity, but by the Rites of Church, this could not be done before the 19th of this month, and only yesterday I learned that the greater part of you here present would be leaving to-morrow, so, after a consultation with the Italian Consul-General, Comm. Z. Volpicelli, and Marquis Cusani-Visconti, commanding the Italian man-of-war, I decided to have a Memorial Service in St. Joseph's Church, as the Cathedral is not free at present."

"What is the meaning of this Service? From the crêpe hanging in the Church you know we are mourning with the deepest grief for the terrible calamity which has befallen our dear countrymen, that our thoughts are oppressed with the sufferings and anguish borne by our people. Our souls are overwhelmed by these thoughts and we feel deeply sad and sorrowful. But in our sorrow we must remember, as Catholics that those who perished did not perish completely; their souls which are immortal, are still alive, and in our uncertainty of their state, let us pray that we may help and relieve them: This is the second meaning of the Service. Let us pray God, through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, to have mercy upon them, to forgive their faults and grant them everlasting happiness."

"A word now for the survivors. Who can describe the desolation and anguish they have suffered? We know that after the great shock, another came that must have struck terror in their souls. We hear that epidemics have broken out. Let us utter a prayer for them, to ask the Almighty to grant them strength and Christian resignation, to provide them with prompt relief and comfort."

"A word to you, my beloved officers and sailors who are going home heart-broken in the terrible uncertainty of the doom that has befallen your dear ones. In the name of all, I hope that after a happy voyage, you may still find your relatives and friends alive, but, if Providence has disposed otherwise..... I exhort you to lift up your eyes to Heaven and comfort in God. I wish and pray God that you may be strengthened with that special force which is given by Christian resignation and gratitude. Now I bless all you present, and, interpreting the feelings of all Italians, I also bless all those noble-hearted men of every nation who have so largely contributed to relieve the distress caused by the earthquake in our country. So may it be, in the name of the Father, the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Bishop Pozzoni, who was very pale, showed signs of being deeply moved while he spoke; his voice often faltered, and on one or two occasions he paused as if overcome with emotion.

At the end of the ceremony, the Italian Consul-General and Marquis Cusani Visconti,

thanked the Bishop for the Service and the foreigners who had kindly been present at the ceremony.

VARIOUS ESTIMATES OF YUAN SHIH-KAI.

The Chinese press of Shanghai naturally has made many comments upon the retirement of Yuan Shih-kai from his high offices. The comments of the *Yu Lun Pao*, which is an official paper, are naturally sympathetic. The retired statesman is spoken of as the leading man in the conduct of the foreign affairs of China, but it is pointed out that the appointment of H. E. Liang Tun-yen as his successor will ensure a continuance of the policy of Yuan Shih-kai in this Board. The comments point out that Liang owes his advancement in a large degree to the good offices of Yuan, and that he is sure to conduct foreign affairs on the same lines as Yuan. The article in the *Sin Wan Pao* is more critical, but still is very appreciative of Yuan. It points out that the manner of his retirement has been most unusual. Throughout the present Dynasty, if a high official found himself in disfavour, it has been the custom for him to ask leave, of absence, which has usually been granted him and the leave has been lengthened for two or three months until he finally requested to be allowed to return to his native place and to retire from service. In the case of Yuan, no such leave was asked, and without any request on his part he was ordered to return to his home to recuperate his health. It is pointed out that Yuan Shih-kai is still a young man, and that his illness is not at all serious, so that the manner of his retirement leaves no doubt as to his being in disfavour with the Prince Regent. The *Shih Pao* comments most severely upon the career of Yuan Shih-kai. It attributes the present serious difficulties of China to his bad advice which has been followed for many years. The foundation of the present troubles was in the policy of Yuan Shih-kai while he was Resident in Korea. He over-estimated the importance of the Korean insurgents in 1894, and misinterpreted the desires of the Korean Emperor. Being responsible for the despatch of Chinese troops to Korea to quell the insurgents and assist the Korean Emperor, he brought about the Chino-Japan War. This resulted in the payment of a large indemnity to Japan, thus weakening China and strengthening Japan. It also made possible the fulfilment of Russian designs in Manchuria and the building of the Manchurian Railway by Russia to offset Japan's lately-acquired influence in Korea. The comments go on to state that he took the part of the Empress Dowager against the young Emperor, and thus checked the progress of reform. It was owing to his action in the *coup d'état* of 1898 that the restless elements in the north received encouragement to start the Boxer movement, and although Yuan was Governor of Shantung at the time he did nothing to check the movement, except to drive the Boxers out of Shantung into southern Chihli. The article also complains of his administration of the finances of Chihli and is most bitter in its tone. The comments of the *Shih Pao* are significant, as this paper is largely under the influence of Cantonese, and it shows that, whereas Yuan Shih-kai had control over a certain portion of the Canton party, yet there is another section of Cantonese bitterly opposed to him. Several other of the local Chinese papers pass over the important event without any comment. It is noticeable that none of the papers commenting on the matter anticipate any trouble for the Government on account of Yuan's retirement. The fears entertained by the London papers, according to our Reuter's despatch to-day, are not shared by the local Chinese newspapers. We give currency to the above estimates in order to show how freely public opinion is now being expressed in China. - *Shanghai Times*.

Captain Wagermann of the P. & A. steamer *Nicomedia*, has been drowned in the Straits of Shimonoseki. He fell overboard and was not seen again. A high sea was running at the time.

FOUNDERING OF A JAPANESE STEAMER.

LOSS OF 40 LIVES.

The Japanese steamer the *Daini Denshin-maru*, which left Sakai, Hoki province, on the 25th ult. for Shimonoseki, via Hamada and Hagi, on the 28th at 4 a.m., grounded on a rock off the Tsunoshima Light, but soon got off and had proceeded on her course for not more than a furlong when she began to make water rapidly and foundered. Of the crew, thirty in number, the chief engineer, chief officer, and seven sailors and stokers were rescued; all the rest are missing. There were twenty passengers on board, and only one—a bluejacket—was saved. The bodies of five women passengers were recovered. The steamer carried timber, charcoal, raw silk and rice and other cereals. The vessel is entirely submerged, only her masts showing at low water.

The bluejacket who escaped proceeded to Moji. Describing the disaster, he said that he heard a curious sound below, and he ran up to the Captain's cabin on deck to inquire what was the matter. The Captain said everything was all right. The bluejacket then went below and lay down. In a few minutes the strange sounds were repeated, and he concluded there was something seriously wrong. He awakened all the passengers, who were then sleeping and told them that the steamer was sinking, whereupon a panic ensued. However, he collected them together and hastily lowered a boat, and putting five lady passengers in it, he got in himself and rowed off, but the boat was swallowed in the vortex caused by the foundering of the steamer and overturned. He came to the surface of the water and clung to a piece of wood, whence he made signals to a passing steamer, but in vain. Then he thought himself lost, but swimming towards the naval look-out, tower, boats from Tsunojima arrived and picked him and seven others up. The latter were in the last stage of exhaustion.

According to the Chief Engineer, the steam pipe broke at the joint when the steamer stranded.—*Japan Chronicle*.

THE POPPY IN CHINA.

Mr. C. Clementi, Assistant Colonial Secretary of Hongkong, has laid all students of the opium question in China under a further debt of gratitude to him by the publication yesterday of an "Article on the Poppy from the compendium of Literature and Illustrations ancient and modern." The original text of this Chinese classic has been translated by Mr. Clementi, who has supplemented it with copious notes and an introduction. The remarkable compendium of 10,000 books from which the article on the Poppy is translated was published in 1726. We gather from it that the poppy is first mentioned prior to 819 A.D. and the poppy fields are described as a feature of the landscape in Szechuan. Under the Sung dynasty the poppy is mentioned as a vegetable, and the seeds and vegetables are mentioned as having medicinal value, and curing diarrhoea. An author of the Chin dynasty (1115-1234 A.D.) speaks of the poppy capsules as a cure for cough and asthma; while writers of the Yuan dynasty (1206-1368 A.D.) prescribe the capsules for rheumatism, cough, consumption and diarrhoea. Before 1578 A.D. the etymology of the word "opium" was already under discussion, and opium is spoken of as an article of trade. Summarising an article by a writer in the Ming dynasty (1368-1644 A.D.), who died in 1482 A.D., Mr. Clementi says there is no hint in the article of the names "foreign medicine," and "foreign earth" which were subsequently invented to describe the drug. "On the contrary, it seems clear that the Arabs first taught the Chinese their knowledge of opium and the way to extract it, yet for several centuries previously *papaver somniferum* had been well known in China. In fact, all that the Chinese learnt from the Arabs was a means of extracting further profit from their already existing poppy fields."

The book is on sale at the office of Messrs. Noronha & Co. at \$1.50 per copy.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

January 7th.

OPPOSITION TO NEW TAXATION.

There is trouble brewing at present regarding a new tax which the Revenue Bureau intends to place on the pawnshops. Hitherto these establishments have been carried on under licenses, and it was distinctly understood that no changes were to be made or any additional taxes to be levied. If the authorities insist there will be serious trouble as the closing of the pawnshops (which has already been threatened) at this time of the year will provoke a tremendous uproar and a serious conflict between officials and public. There is an opportunity for the Self-Government Society to act up to its motto. This they have not done so far and are not likely to do. It is another case in point which conclusively proves that the Association's aim is essentially anti-foreign.

The following is a translation of an express circulated by the employees of all the pawnshops in Canton:—

"We beg respectfully to inform the public that the Government Stamp Revenue Bureau has repeatedly insisted upon the pawnshops applying for stamped papers to be used for pawn tickets and we have been informed that, if we refuse to do so, each pawnshop must pay a royalty of 20 per cent. per annum to the Education Bureau. If we also decline to pay this the Government has decided to demand payment to them of 10 per cent. of the interest charged by pawnshops on money advanced upon certain articles such as wooden ware, iron ware, brass ware, etc., the proceeds to be applied to educational purposes. The employees of the pawnshops beg to say that it would be very inconvenient to use these Government stamped papers. Moreover the pawnbrokers find business to be daily declining and the articles pawned have been depreciating in value. These are our reasons for refusing to pay the royalty demanded. Moreover it is distinctly stated in the pawnshop licenses issued by the Bureau of Local Affairs that no addition will be made to the taxes in future, and, on the face of this, why should the proprietors allow the introduction of new regulations and permit the authorities to introduce whatever taxes they like? We understand that it is the intention of the Stamp Revenue Bureau to use force and take oppressive measures involving us in serious trouble which we cannot avoid. The authorities do not know that the 10 per cent. deducted out of the money advanced to people who pawn articles are given to the employees of the pawnshops as a bonus to make up for the low wages they receive. This custom has been in vogue for over a century. Now the Viceroy has issued a notification to the above effect and Li Tak Po has instituted an action against the Him Tai pawnshop for deducting 10 per cent. out of the money advanced to him on articles pawned by him, because it was not stated on the pawn tickets that the 10 per cent. is deducted for educational purposes. If we are to be deprived of this bonus of 10 per cent. our wages will be insufficient for the up-keep of our own families. We have all agreed to resign our positions and go into other employment to keep body and soul alive. We respectfully beg to inform our proprietors to engage other people to take up our positions."

This express is issued by all the employees of the pawnshops in Canton.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

DISSATISFACTION IN SHANGHAI.

Our Canton correspondent writes:—

There has been much dissatisfaction amongst the shareholders of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company. They have formed an association called the Yent-Han Railway Rescue Society. This Society has recently had several held meetings in Chang Men (Chang Gardens) at which the members, claiming to represent 300,000 shares, have denounced the management of affairs by the company's Head Office here. They also complained that the Company had threatened to confiscate their shares without giving them due and proper

notice. The Society has recently addressed a long letter and sent many telegrams to the President and Directors of the Company stating that up to the present time the Company had only furnished the Shanghai shareholders with reports showing the total receipts and payments during the 32nd and 33rd years of Kwong Su, and nothing whatever had been mentioned in those reports as to the actual amount of work done, how many miles of railway have been completed, the cost of construction per mile, the value of rolling stock, materials, &c. unused, value of land purchased, the amount of cash on hand, when they expect to complete the line and no profit and loss account has been issued of the line now working. The Shanghai shareholders say that they have noticed in the newspapers on several occasions that the Central Government has been urging that investigation be made into the financial condition of the Company and it is quite apparent that it is the intention of the Government to obtain foreign loans and itself construct the line. Great apprehension exists amongst the Shanghai shareholders that such steps may be taken, and they blame the Company for it. They now demand that the Company shall supply them with full information before they pay in the money due on the second instalment, and they point out that the shares are now only worth 40 per cent. of their original value, and that, if they were to pay in the £150 due on the second instalment of each share, out of every dollar they pay in, they would get back only 40 cents, if they were to realize their shares in the market the following day.

In conclusion the Shanghai shareholders request the Company to cable them the particulars they ask for, so that they may cause the real position of affairs to be made known to the public and allay the anxiety of all the shareholders who, they say, are "now at sea in a boat facing a typhoon and crying."

The last telegram sent by Sir Chan Tung Liang Shing to the Association in Shanghai a few days ago ran as follows:—

"Contents of your (last) telegram noted. I note that you are paying great attention to this matter. Many false telegrams are in circulation concerning affairs of the railway. I advise you that it is not safe to place too much reliance on such telegrams. My reply is on its way to Shanghai. I have collected over \$8,000,000 due on second instalment. You can ease your mind regarding the construction of trunk line. (Signed) SHING."

BURGLARY AT MADAME FLINT'S.

Now that Chinese New Year is so close at hand it behoves residents to see to the security of their premises, for the Chinese thief is very busy at present. Another burglary has to be added to the long list which has been chronicled of late, and the robbers would have made a substantial haul had not the police arrived on the scene at the opportune moment. At about three o'clock yesterday morning as Indian Police Sergeant, No. 576, was patrolling Queen's Road Central, he observed two natives coming out of Madame Flint's millinery establishment. When the men saw him they attempted to escape, but the Sergeant secured one of them and blowing his whistle another Indian constable appeared on the scene and the second fugitive was captured. The policemen then returned to Madame Flint's shop, and there, after a search, found a third man concealed behind a dresser and he also was arrested. The thieves had evidently been on the premises for sometime for the show cases were rifled of all their finery which was tied up in bundles ready for removal. Even her large assortment of ladies hats of the latest fashion was not overlooked by the burglars, who had found time to remove all the costly trimmings therefrom. The opportune arrival of the police, however, saved Madame Flint stock to the value of over \$900, for there can be no doubt that if the thieves had got away clear with the articles they had packed up, a quantity of the stolen property would not have been recovered.

The three men arrested were charged before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy and sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

THE "EASTERN" STOWAWAYS.

At the Magistracy on Jan. 12 before Mr. J. H. Kemp, Mr. Gardiner (of Messrs. Brutton and Hett) appeared to make application for a re-hearing in the case in which his Worship had, on the previous day, sentenced 20 Chinese stowaways to nine months' imprisonment each.

Mr. Gardiner stated that he made the application with a view to getting a reduction of the sentence. Nine months seemed a very heavy sentence, and he did not think the owners pressed for such a penalty.

His Worship—It is a very serious offence, you know.

Mr. Gardiner—I don't think the circumstances were altogether explained to your Worship. The defendants are ignorant persons from the interior, who were inveigled into going to Australia, and they thought they were getting there very cheap when they paid a total sum of \$800. They were ignorant of the fact that the owners of the steamer were being defrauded of their proper rights.

His Worship—The owners pressed for the full penalty.

Mr. Gardiner—My instructions are that they are rather sorry these people got such a heavy sentence. The circumstances must have been misrepresented to the defendants, otherwise they would not have attempted the journey.

His Worship said he would consider the matter without granting a re-hearing, together with any letter which Mr. Gardiner might be able to obtain from the agents.

A CONTRADICTION.

Mr. H. G. C. Bailey (of the firm of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) informed Mr. Kemp at the Magistracy yesterday that he had been instructed by Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., Agents of the E. & A. Steamship Co., to contradict certain statements reported to have been made by Mr. Gardiner to the Court the previous day when applying for a rehearing of the charge against the persons convicted of being stowaways on the steamer *Eastern*. It appeared from the newspaper reports of the proceedings that Mr. Gardiner had stated that the ship's agents had not desired to press the case, and in fact were rather sorry for the stowaways. Mr. Bailey said he was instructed by Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co. to state that they had given no instructions to the effect mentioned by Mr. Gardiner, and so far from desiring any reduction of the penalty imposed, they applied for the maximum penalty provided by the Ordinance. Unless the statements reported to have been made by Mr. Gardiner were contradicted, Mr. Bailey said, considerable harm would be done.

Mr. Kemp said that when Mr. Gardiner made his application he was astonished to hear that the shipping agents, who the previous day had pressed for the full penalty, desired a mitigation of the sentence the next day.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A CHINESE MERCHANT AT YOKOHAMA.

HEAVY LIABILITIES.

A Tokyo dispatch to the *Osaka Mainichi* reports that the proprietor of a Chinese firm called Kwong Man-tai, of Yokohama, has absconded. The firm, adds the dispatch, is one of the oldest Chinese concerns in Yokohama engaged in the export of cotton and silk fabrics and marine produce, and at one time enjoyed great credit. The Chinese boycott in South China seriously affected the business of the firm, and recently the Specie Bank and the Seda Bank refused to accept its drafts. On the 27th ultimo the firm shipped all its goods previously purchased and held in the godown and the proprietor disappeared the following day. His absence from the office became known generally on the 29th ultimo. More than a score of Japanese merchants who had business connections with the firm laid a charge of fraud against him with the police, as he left unpaid bills amounting to about ¥280,000 in all. It is believed he has made his way to America, and there is little hope that the money will be recovered.

The Portuguese Lilliputians are clever little artistes and they deserved all the praise they received on Saturday night for their performance of "The Geisha."

THE NEW CHINESE CURRENCY PROPOSITION.

Chinese Public Opinion writes on this subject as follows:—

We note that the subject of a gold standard for China has again been brought forward by Government presumably on account of some proposition made by an influential official. In our last issue we published a paragraph anent the matter in which it was stated that, "the Ministers abroad should be wired to and ordered to negotiate with various nations to settle a proportionate valuation between their own and Chinese currency. A basis is suggested that 15 pieces of Chinese half-tael coins should equal one pound sterling."

Now this would be a very excellent arrangement for China but unfortunately in the present state of the world it is the custom of states as well as individuals, when asked to grant a favour, to look for a *quid pro quo*.

The proposition as put forward does not seem to provide for this nor does it offer any security that the half-tael coins of China, which by the way are not yet in existence, will be of high grade silver approximating to the value suggested and leaving a margin for further possible depreciation of the white metal *vis a vis* the yellow.

Of course if China kept a gold reserve, even in bullion only, sufficient to redeem her silver tael currency to the extent of say, two-thirds, and gave sufficient guarantees that she would redeem it, on demand, the proposition would be accepted *instantly*.

Silver at present is much depreciated in value but it is by no means certain that it has yet touched "bottom." We remember hearing, some years ago, that in certain parts of the world excellent silver could be produced as low as one shilling and two pence per ounce. We have also heard of tailings containing much silver, from certain mines, being thrown aside as not worth the trouble of extracting the precious metal therefrom. We have also heard that hundreds of rich mines in various parts of the world, more especially in Central America, are shut down as it was not worth while extracting the tons of silver in sight while there was such a surfeit of the metal in circulation. We were also informed that if all the silver mines in the world were worked at full pressure the metal would probably become more plentiful and cheaper than copper.

We do not know whether all or any of this information is true but we cannot fail to perceive that whenever any demand for silver springs up a plentiful supply is invariably to hand very speedily.

How then can the proposition as mooted be put before foreign nations? Silver, at present, rules low. China institutes a demand in order to mint sufficient currency of a uniform nature for her vast dominions. The supply being plentiful an increase of output will take place if this demand raises the price of the metal, either owing to the attitude of speculative holders or the demand for excessive quantity on quick delivery. The new currency being digested and the demand having ceased, a surfeit of silver will then be found in the market and a further slump will be the necessary corollary.

The Foreign nations having agreed to accept China's half-tael coins at a valuation of fifteen to the pound will soon be flooded with such currency and will have no means of obtaining repayment in their own sterling basis for the coins. Will any sensible Foreign Power take such a risk?

No!

The proposition as put forward is absurd!

Now take the question of the introduction of a gold standard into China, on a rational basis. Suppose we estimate the currency needs of the Empire at Taels five per head of the population. This will give us the necessity of purchasing or obtaining by degrees from current revenues Provincial and Imperial, a sum of two billions of Taels, in silver, for coinage purposes. In addition to this, for the purpose of facilitating transport, and merely considered as a medium for this purpose a country so extensive as this may be deemed to require half this amount in paper currency. This will give us the very moderate capital currency of three billions of Taels. In order to put this currency

on a gold standard basis its value, estimating eight Taels to the pound sterling, would be three hundred and seventy-five million pounds. A gold reserve of at least half of this would be required, or say even one hundred and fifty million pounds worth of gold sycee. Where is China to obtain this?

It will be seen that we have taken the currency necessities of the country at less than one English pound, the most stable standard in the world, per head of the population. In Great Britain, one of the richest countries in the world the metallic currency is about Twelve million pounds, including silver and copper coins. The note issue is approximately fifty million pounds, making a total currency of some sixty-two million pounds for a population of forty-two millions of inhabitants.

We have reversed the position of cash currency and paper currency values for China for the simple reason that China's Government credit is not of the same calibre as that of Great Britain. It is interesting to note, however, that Great Britain's security for her large paper issue consists of about eleven million pounds worth of Government securities, seven million and a half of other securities (commercial) and thirty million pounds of bullion reserve.

Of course one can make the exception that the Chinese as a nation are not as wealthy individually, and do not need therefore, so large a quantity of currency in proportion with the British. This we are willing to concede, but we would point out that we have estimated so far at practically half of the British equivalent.

To clinch our argument, however, we are prepared to still further reduce China's estimated requirements in gold for reserve purposes, retaining our figures in proportion, for metallic and paper currency, by dividing them by ten. This will leave to China the necessity of finding a gold reserve in hard metal of thirty seven and a half millions of pounds sterling.

Where can she raise this sum?

FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN FOR 1908.

A HEAVY DECLINE.

In a brief review of the foreign trade of the Empire for the year just closed, the *Osaka Mainichi* says that, owing to the financial depression prevailing throughout the world, the foreign trade of all countries has shown a decrease more or less. The financial crisis and the Presidential election in the United States, the boycott of Japanese goods in South China, and the death of the Emperor and Empress Dowager of China have seriously affected the foreign trade of Japan. The value of the trade for the last ten days of the year is not yet known, but assuming it to be 80 per cent. of the figures for the preceding ten days, the total value of exports this year will amount to Y362,464,831, and that of imports to Y432,730,180, showing an excess of Y70,265,349 in imports over exports. Compared with last year, the exports showed a decrease of Y69,948,042 and the imports of Y61,737,166, or an aggregate decrease in the total trade of Y131,685,208.

The *Japan Chronicle* in a leading article on the subject of the world-wide trade depression says incidentally:—

The effect of the world depression in trade has been very serious in the case of Japan. Coming at a critical period, when the country was in the first stage of recouping the losses suffered by the war, its effects have been crippling. Compared with 1907, foreign trade has fallen off by about 130 million yen, reducing over-sea trade to about the level of 1905, the year after the war. This has naturally had its effect on internal trade, which is seriously burdened by the high taxation necessary to pay for the late war and is further hampered by the high price of commodities thus produced. It seems to be the universal opinion that not for years past has such a depression been evident in the internal trade of the country as during the last few months. Some of the retail dealers assert that in the whole course of their experience they have not

seen such disinclination to purchase at this season of the year,—a sure sign of hard times. Very many people are out of employment and are being supported by relatives; there is an increasing tendency to reduce the number of operatives in large establishments, while many smaller works have closed up entirely, and in the larger towns there are thousands of empty tenements to be seen, more people being crowded into the houses that remain in order to reduce the outlay for rent. It is probable that as Japan has more recently entered the field of industrialism, she has less reserve and is more readily affected, while the persistent following of a policy which raises the price of commodities inevitably intensifies the distress. It may be hoped, however, that the general causes which have affected trade all over the world will gradually cease to operate. During the past year there has been a steady improvement in the conditions in America, and, though not so rapid or so extensive as was hoped, it may be expected to continue. This has already favourably affected one section of Japanese trade in improving the market for silk, and generally tends to arouse confidence. If the silver market were to improve, or even to steady, another branch of Japanese commerce would receive a fillip. Moreover, the depression of the past year has no doubt removed a good deal of rotten business, and this will tend to the strengthening of those concerns that have stood the strain. In many quarters it is confidently anticipated that when business resumes after the holidays there will be a brighter outlook than has been evident throughout the last few months, and it may be hoped that experience will show the confidence to be justified.

BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP IN HONGKONG.

The much talked of match between Mr. E. H. Hinds and Sergeant Pitt, the two foremost billiard players of the Colony, took place in St. George's Hall on 11th inst. before a very large attendance. The players were introduced to the audience by Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, who took the opportunity of thanking the promoters for affording those present a pleasant evening. The game was 1000 up, and a start was made by Hinds, who gave the usual miss in baulk. Pitt followed with a fluky three, and then scoring proceeded slowly until well on in the hundred. The first century was recorded by Hinds, who passed into his second with a 32 break. A 17 break saw Pitt past the first mile stone, and this was followed up by a score of 42, for which he was roundly applauded. Hinds succeeded with the good break of 63, scored off a lucky pot, and then he settled down to steady play, rapidly adding to his total with breaks ranging from 20 to 40 odd. His skilful touch, successful play for position, and accuracy of aim, soon drew him ahead of his opponent who, while playing more difficult strokes, had not the art of keeping the balls together or bringing them where they were wanted with the same skill as Hinds. Pitt also had the appearance of being somewhat nervous, for on several occasions he failed on comparatively easy strokes. Before the interval Hinds had increased his total by breaks of 40, 41 and 42, and the score then stood:

Hinds	...	...	...	...	...	530
Pitt	...	...	...	...	...	299

Hinds continued the same consistent play after the interval registering a break of 40 shortly after the start, and following this up with a 62, Pitt, however, was not showing such good form, his score being increased by small contributions. When the totals stood Hinds 789, Pitt, 457, the latter player began to show up better, while Hinds fell off. Pitt played a steady game and began to gain on his opponent. A 35 break brought him up to the 500 mark, and in the following hundred he made another good break of 42, his game then being spoiled by a kiss driving both balls in baulk. Hinds, however, who brought the balls together with the skill of a conjurer, and who was playing some remarkably clever "follow on" shots, evidently thought it time to finish the game when Pitt got over the 600, and he ran out with a 48 break amid the cheers of the spectators. The scores at the finish were:

Hinds	...	...	...	...	...	1000
Pitt	...	...	...	...	...	631

SHIPPING NOTES.

The *Kitano-maru* will be launched from the Mitsui Bishi Dockyard, Nagasaki, on the 24th January. The vessel is the last to be launched of the four ordered by the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for its European service.

In consequence of the depression prevailing in business circles both at home and abroad, the number of steamers lying idle at Yokohama, Kobe, Osaka, and other ports is gradually increasing. There were recently twenty steamers of laid up in these ports, four of them being steamers of over 4,000 tons.

The President of the Board of Posts and Communications at Peking has instructed the Commissioner of Shipping Affairs to draft a set of navigation rules for the river boats. A vernacular contemporary states that His Excellency has also decided to levy dues on all such vessels for conservancy purposes and to prohibit the dumping of cinders and rubbish into the river.

In the month of March last year the Cantonese merchants home and abroad, at formed a Navigation Association with a capital of \$10,000,000 to run steamers, open a bank and an insurance company. It is reported that the capital has been partly subscribed. They have purchased a block of houses in Sap Sam Hong, Canton and are going to build offices there in European styles.

The steamers *Shawmut* and *Tremont* well-known in Far Eastern waters, have been purchased by the Isthmian Canal Company from the Boston Navigation Company to be used in transporting supplies for the Panama canal. For the purchase of two steamers for the Isthmian Canal Commission Congress in 1907 appropriated \$1,500,000. The owners of the *Shawmut* and *Tremont*, it is reported, at first asked exactly this amount for the vessels, but finally agreed to take for the two \$1,157,300, which they state is 33 per cent. less than they cost five and six years ago. The owners agree to deliver the vessels at New York without cost to the United States Government. These vessels will be used for carrying supplies to the canal and latter will be turned over to the Navy for service as colliers.

One of the most enterprising of the French steamship companies, the Chargeurs-Réunis, has to acknowledge an indifferent year. It is the old story of increased expenditure, only partially balanced by augmented receipts. The inauguration of a round-the-world service was highly creditable to the enterprise of the company, but it corresponded, as it happened, with a period of dear coal and indifferent freights. The service is consequently to be bi-monthly in future, instead of monthly, and somewhat smaller boats are to be employed in it, says a Home paper. It is interesting to note that the requirements of the new French law are adding considerably to the cost of wages on French ships. Thus, it is not only British shipowners who are called upon to pay more by reason of legislative enactment. The shareholders of the Chargeurs-Réunis have to go without a dividend this year; but, if report speaks truly, they will merely be in the same boat as those of some of the best of the German companies.

INDO-CHINA FINANCES.

The Governor-General of Indo-China opened a session of the High Council of the colony at Hanoi, last month when he delivered a speech, showing the unsatisfactory condition of the finances, now that all loan money had been spent.

The burden of interest presses heavily on the Budget for 1909. The Yunnan Railway had landed the colony in for enormous expenses, and the fall in silver had proved to be a sore embarrassment. The balancing of the Budget depended upon the strictest economy next year. Any fresh loan raised will be spent for the special purposes of the borrowing and for nothing else. There had been too much slackness on this point in the past. His idea is to do without borrowing as far as possible, so that the Colony might soon stand on its own feet, and might get on without outside financial help.

THE CHINAMAN AT HOME.

BY A BRITISH CONSUL.

Mr. H. A. Little, the British Consul at Ichang has managed to write a report which has received in the Home papers far more attention than consular reports usually get. He gives in his report not merely the statistics of trade, but an idea of the life lived by the people of the country. The Consul writes on rents, incomes, salaries and wages, hours of labour, dwellings, furniture, dress, food and cost of living, fuel, and general conditions of life at the port. Following is some of the information imparted:—

The land is generally still held in small holdings of from half an acre to five or six acres, at a rent of about £2 6s. an acre, paid sometimes in kind, and the entire set of implements can be bought for about 30s. There are at Ichang no lawyers, or notaries, or architects, or veterinary surgeons. The so-called doctors are about twenty in number, two or three of them earning from £7 to £11 per month, but the majority being content with much less—sometimes with but 13s. 6d. per month. The shop assistants get about 13s. per month, with food, and the artisans earn from 5½d. to 1d. a day, with food. The rents of dwellinghouses range from 1s. 6d. per month for a labourer's cottage, to £3 10s. per month for a merchant's house of some 25 or 30 rooms.

Food is of the simplest description, fish and meat being little eaten; milk, butter, and bread not at all, and rice and vegetables forming the staple diet. The expenditure on food ranges from about 2s. to 3s. per month in the case of the working class, to about 25s. to 30s. in the case of the well-to-do. There are no roads, no carts or carriages, no municipal government, no public lighting of the streets, no police, no fire brigade, no shops as we know them, no hairdressers, no trams or railways, no libraries or reading rooms, no places of amusement—nothing, in fact, which we associate with the idea of a modern town. There is a lifeboat service maintained on account of the danger of the Yangtze river, which saves about 1,000 lives every year; and there are three theatrical troupes, consisting of from 20 to 60 performers, who visit house, etc. and charge from £1 to £1 10s. per day. There are also about 19 inns, where the usual charge is about 1s. a day, including food, but no bedding is provided. Banking is commonly transacted through cash shops, which issue their own notes, and advance money on 12 to 15 per cent. interest per annum, and there are two pawnshops, which charge about 1d. per 1s. 6d. per month.

Native houses are "as a rule, very bare, and the general run of middle-class people do not spend more than a few hundred taels (say £50) on furnishing. A rich man may, however, spend as much as £1,000 to £1,250. A taste is growing up for foreign articles of furniture, especially beds. The richest man in Ichang is contemplating the erection and furnishing of a mansion in foreign style.

"On marriage a woman of the upper class spends several thousands of taels on her wardrobe, but subsequently only a few tens every year. In Ichang there are by 15 or 20 persons of this position. The jewellery worn at one time may be worth £950 to £375. A single dress may cost from £25 to £27, for furs to £3 15s., or £5 for silk or satin, the price for good everyday clothes being from £1 5s. to £2 10s. Strange to say, men are more extravagant in dress than women. Chinese ladies often spend a great deal of money on trousseaux and layettes; has any for igniter ever tried to do business in this line? The price of a suit of summer clothes for a labouring man is 2s. 4d. to 3s., and he requires two suits a year. Wadded winter clothes cost 4s. 8d. to 6s. 2d., and will last two or three years. The lower classes mostly go bare footed; the ordinary shoes, which are generally soled with cotton cloths, cost about 1s. 6d. per pair.

"A curious custom is observed at Ichang in the seventh moon of suspending at night a burning rushlight on the top of a high pole up at the front door of the houses. It seems that many centuries ago a neighbouring State threatened to burn the town, but the attacking army was frightened away by the inhabitants burning as many lights as possible in their

houses, and thus giving the appearance of the presence of a large force. The custom commemorates this event.

"It is perhaps not generally known that the Dragon Boat Festival, now observed all over the empire, originated in connection with an occurrence in this district. Some 20 centuries ago a statesman of the kingdom of Ch'u, which then occupied this region, was dismissed by his master, and in despair drowned himself in the Tung-ting Lake. Being a native of the district and much loved by the people, many boats put off to rescue him, each striving to reach the spot first. The festival, which is a sort of boat race, is intended to recall this incident."

FAR EASTERN TELEGRAMS.

KOREAN EMPEROR'S VISIT TO FUSAN.

Tokyo, January 10th.

The Korean Emperor's progress on his visit to Fusan has been most auspicious.

It was taken on the initiative of Prince Its with the object of allaying fears regarding southern disturbances.

Cordial telegrams have been exchanged between the Emperors of Japan and Korea, and the Mikado has expressly ordered the first and second squadrons to Fusan in honour of the Royal visitor.

AMERICA AND ANTI-JAPANESE LEGISLATION.

Tokyo, January 14th.

The introduction in the Californian Legislature of anti-Japanese measures has aroused the Tokyo press.

President Roosevelt in a communication to the Governor of California described the measures as most unjust.

SHIPPING ACCIDENT AT SINGAPORE.

THE "POLYNESIEN" CUTS A DUTCH STEAMER IN TWO.

Singapore, January 12th.

The French mail steamer *Polynisien*, as she was leaving here for China, got caught in the current through the snapping of the tug cable, and cut the Dutch steamer *Djambie* in two.

She also tore up the wharf.

The British India Co.'s steamer *Teesta* in trying to avoid the *Polynisien* got ashore and is still fast.

The *Polynisien* proceeded after a few hours' delay.

Eight coolies who were on the Dutch steamer at the time of the collision were drowned.

THE RICE CROP.

The Second General Memorandum on the Indian Rice crop of the season 1908-09 says that the total area under rice in India and Burma reported amounts 51,198,900 acres as compared with 52,888,200 last year. This represents a net contraction of 1,689,300 acres or 3.2 per cent. This is more than accounted for by the contraction of 1,900,700 acres in the winter crop of Bengal, while the winter crop of Eastern Bengal and Assam also shows a decline of 795,000 acres. These losses, together with those in the summer and autumn crops in Bengal, are to some extent compensated by a substantial increase of 646,700 acres in the autumn crop of Eastern Bengal and Assam, with smaller increases in Lower Burma and in Madras.

The British Consul at Bangkok says that the present rice crop in Siam is reckoned to be the largest on record, the general opinion being that over 1,000,000 tons all told will be available for export. So far as the season has gone, there is, he says, every reason to believe that the export will reach the figures of the above estimate, but deliveries will be regulated to a certain extent by the results of work in the fields during the time that the new crop is being cultivated, as it is customary to hold back heavy reserves of grain in the event of serious damage to growing crops.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.—

RICE.

HONGKONG, 18th January.—The prices are going downward for the Chinese New Year. Quotations are:—
Saigon, Ordinary \$5.70 to 5.80
" Round, Good quality \$5.40 to 5.45
" Long 5.81 to 5.85
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 \$5.60 to 5.65
" Garden, " No. 1 5.20 to 5.25
" White \$5.30 to 5.35
" Fine Cargo 5.50 to 5.55

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs Noel, Murray & Co., in their latest Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 8th January state:—New Chinese Weights and Measures.—In view of the early adoption of the new standards, we extract the following from The Indian Trade Journal.—"Up to the present time Chinese weights and measures have been distinguished by their extraordinary diversity. In nearly every province different standards have obtained, and even in some towns carpenters, and tailors use measures differing from one another by quite an appreciable amount. A message from Peking, dated October 2th, 1907, announced that an Imperial Edict had that day been issued ordering the Board of Revenue and Commerce to introduce a new system of weights and measures throughout the Chinese Empire. The project devised by the Board of Revenue and Commerce and submitted to and approved by the Committee of Reforms without modification, has become law. The standards have been defined in terms of the metric system, and the various units are as follows. The new unit of length is the "chi"; it is defined as exactly 32 centimetres. The capacity table has, as its unit, the "to," which is equal to 10,355 litres, while the unit of weight is the "liang," of 37,301 grams." The latest move in Peking, which seems to have caused some forebodings in the Foreign Countries chiefly interested in China, is looked upon by the native Mercantile Community here with equanimity and was evidently anticipated as quite inevitable. It has not unnaturally given rise to some apprehensiveness, but seems to have been so well timed, and done in such a thoroughly masterful manner, that no deleterious consequences are likely to be felt in the Provinces, although it has caused some uneasiness in the Capital itself. Arrangements to meet the coming settlement are practically completed now, and seldom, if ever, have the Native and Foreign Banks stood in such a relatively independent position as at present. The former have repaid all their loans from latter and are said to have six or seven lakhs of tael in hand, which is expected to be doubled before the settling day arrives. The great reduction in the price of Rice, too, during the last few weeks has done a lot to help the situation, and should soon cause a greatly improved demand for Imports all round. With these prospects in view, some of the dealers are busily engaged in booking goods for delivery after China New Year, where holders are prepared to accept a slight advance on prices wanted for cash, but for the most part the latter prefer to take the risk of holding themselves, with the uncertainty of both Cotton and Silver, unless of course they can see a fair chance of replacing, which seems doubtful in the present condition of the home markets. The enquiry for Newchwang continues good, but it is unlikely much more will be shipped until after the holidays are well over. The other Ports north of us are quiet, but a demand continues for Szechuen where 84lbs. Shirtings and Indian Yarn seem to be in most request. Clearances have not been quite so good as last week. A feature of the market during the interval has been another sale of Dyed Fancy goods en block, some 1,300 cases chiefly East Black Cotton Italians, being taken for a lump sum, cash down. We understand a further 1,000 Cases, mixed goods, are also open for offers in the same way, but are not so easily placed. Telegrams from Manchester advise a firm market for the most part, but some buying appears to be going on for this. Yarns are a fraction higher. A rumour is gaining ground that the Cotton crop is not going to be so large as was expected at one time, and prices are steadily advancing in the selling centres. Liverpool now quotes Mid American 5.04d for spot and 4.80d for February/March, while in New York the quotation for the latter month has advanced to 8.39 cents. The Export of Plain Cottons from Manchester last month was 30 million yards, against 29 millions for December 1907. The market in New York is fully firm, but in spite of that some buying is being done for this market in the medium weight goods. There is a good demand for all Spinnings, fair sales are reported at steady prices. Native Cotton keeps very firm.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 1st January 1909.

Hongkong markets:—

Apricot	\$19
Borax	\$17
Cassia	\$29 to 30
Cloves	\$31 to 33
Camphor	\$81 to 89
Cow Bezoar	\$70 to 130
Fennel Seed	\$8
Galangal	\$3 to 5
Grapes	\$16 to 17
Kismis	\$19 to 20
Glue	\$25
Olibanum	\$3 to 15
Oil Sandalwood	\$250 to 400
Rosa	\$70 to 100
Cassia	\$215
Raisins	\$13
Senna Leaves	\$7 to 9
Sandalwood	\$33
Saltpetre	\$10 to 11

EXPORTS:—

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 18th January.—There is no change in the price of the market \$83.50—\$84.50.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 7th January.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 39.50
Do. seconds	" 35.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	" 23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" —
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" 8.80
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" 8.30
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" —
Jute	" 3.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 11.10
White Vegetable Tallow,	" —
Pingschow and/or Macheng	" 11.10
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 10.60
Animal Tallow	" 11.20
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.90
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 17.70
Tobacco, Tingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Black Bristles, Biflings	" —
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 4.98
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.70
Tea Oil	" —

Per P. & O. steamer, Assaye, sailed on 9th Jan 1909. Boston.—100 bales waste silk. Hamburg.—19 cases bird's feathers. Manchester.—348 bales waste silk. Barcelona.—3 cases silk. Lyons.—231 bales raw silk. Marseilles.—40 bales raw silk, 25 bales waste silk, 5 bales human hair, 14 cases feathers, 2 cases silk. London.—375 bales pierced cocoons, 300 bales waste silk, 25 bales raw silk, 49 pkgs tea, 14 cases chi aware, 16 cases silk, 53 bales feathers, 14 cases shells, 20 cases gum elemi, 3 cases private effect. Trieste.—19 cases bird's feathers.

Per P. & O. steamer, Nile, sailed on 13th Jan. 1909. For Glasgow.—28 cases chinaware. Marseilles.—12 pkgs human hair—London 555 rolls matting, 100 bales waste silk, 3050 bales hemp, 409 cases tea, 257 cases dry ginger, 100 cases preserves, 185 cases chinaware 17 cases woodware 24 pkgs. private effects

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 15th January 1909.—With but few unimportant exceptions rates have ruled steady to firm and while we have only a few lower rates to quote, we have several important advances and firmnesses to report. A fair business has been transacted, handicapped however by the disinclination of sellers to part at present prices. The feature of the week is the sudden rise in Hongkong and Shanghai Banks, on the official announcement that,

subject to audit the Corporation would pay 5/ bonus in addition to the usual £2 dividend for the half year ended 31st December last, placing \$500,000 to reserve, and carrying forward about \$2,000,000.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai in the early part of the week were negotiated at 838 and 840, ruling rather weak; on the announcement above referred to however the few small lots on offer were immediately withdrawn, and a buying demand setting in the rate quickly rose to \$875 without sales and at time of closing the demand still meets with no response. The London rate by the latest advices received on the 13th Inst was £33, but it is pretty certain that advices due by Reuters tomorrow morning will show a substantial advance. Latest advices from Shanghai quote \$890, ex 73. Nationals remain unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue quiet with some shares on offer at 825, but with unsatisfied buyers at 820, and even at 825 for small lots. Cantons are still on offer at 195 without finding buyers. The Northern Insurance remain unchanged with the exception of Yangtze, which have improved to 177½ with buyers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong have been in demand during the week, and a fair business has been transacted at 325, 327½ and 330, the market closing steady at the last rate. Chinas continued out of favour with sellers at 106.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong Canton and Macao have maintained the improvement reported last week and after further sales at 29½ were done at 29½ closing steady at the latter rate. China Manilas have declined to 13 without business. Douglases continue in a small demand at 33, and Star Ferrys have buyers at 23½ for old and at 15 for new shares. Shell Transports have improved in London to 47/ and have buyers here at 46/. Indo Chinas continue totally neglected.

REFINERIES.—We have no change or business to report under this heading.

MINING.—Raubs have ruled very quiet during the week, and with the exception of small sales at 8½ we have nothing to report, the market closing with sellers. Chinese Engineerings have declined in the North to 16½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks after further sales at 90 in the early part of the week, have changed hands at 91 and 92, closing quiet at the latter rate. Kowloon Wharfs have been done at 46, but close rather easier with some shares on offer at 45½. Shanghai Docks have gradually weakened since the opening of the Shanghai market, after the holidays, and the latest advices quote them at 75 sellers. Hongkew Wharfs show an improvement to 140, but the North quotes sellers at that rate.

LANDS HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after further small sales at 91½ have found buyers at 92, at which latter rate they close steady. Humphreys have declined to 9½ with sellers and Hotels have advanced to 86 with buyers and no sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined slightly to 78, while Internationals have advanced to 69, and Laon Kung Mows to 73½. Hongkongs remain unchanged with buyers at 9 and sellers at 10.

MEMORANDA.—The following Public Companies have advertised their ordinary general meetings. The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Ltd., on January 28th at noon. Transfer books closed from Tuesday 19th to Thursday 28th inclusive. The West Point Building Co., Ltd., on January 28th at 11.30 a.m. Transfer books closed from Tuesday 19th to Thursday 28th inclusive. The Hongkong Land Reclamation Co., Ltd., on January 28th at 11.15 a.m. Transfer books closed from Thursday 21st to Thursday 28th inclusive.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Bells Asbestos are enquired for at the advanced rate of 8½. Ropes at 24 and Steam Laundries at 5½. Cements after a fair number of sales at 9.70 9.75 and 9.80 close in demand at the last rate. China Borneos have found buyers at 11 and 11½ closing with further buyers at the former rate. Langkats have improved in the North to 855, and Electrics are enquired for locally at quotation. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	all	\$875, buyers
National B. of China	26	\$51
Marine Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$195, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$87½, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 105
Union	\$100	\$825
Yangtze	\$80	\$177½, buyers
Fire Insurances—		
China Fire	20	\$106, sellers
Hongkong Fire	50	\$330, buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & W. Dock	all	\$92
Fenwick & Co., Geo	\$25	\$12, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$13, sellers
Douglas Steamship	all	\$33, buyers
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½
Indo-China S. N. Co.	all	\$37, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$23½, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$15, buyers
Taku Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	\$46½, buyers
S'hai Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 45
Do. Preference	Tls. 50	Tls. 47½
		Tls. 51½
Refineries—		
China Sugar	all	\$112½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	all	\$18
Perak Sugar Cult.	Tls. 50	Tls. 95
Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	all	\$45½, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 140
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	100	\$92, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 5½	Tls. 120
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$33, sellers
Wei-hai-wei Land & Bldg.	Tls. 25	Tls. 9
Humphrey's Estate	all	\$94, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sellers
Tramways—		
The Peak Tramways	all	\$14
	\$1	\$2
Mining—		
Charbonnages	all	590, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$81, sales & sellers
Hotels Etc—		
Hongkong Hotel Co.	all	\$96, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$164
Dispensaries—		
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$2, buyers
Lighting—		
Hongkong & C. Gas	all	\$200
Shanghai Gas Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 121
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$18, buyers
Miscellaneous—		
G. Island Cement	10	\$9.80, buyers
H.K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Bell's Asbestos E. A	12/6	\$8½, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$124
	\$10	\$230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10
H'kong Dairy Farm	\$6	\$22½, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	all	\$220, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59, sellers
S'hai Waterworks Co.	\$20	Tls. 437½
H'kong M. Rope Co.	all	\$24, buyers
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 5½	Tls. 78, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 69, sellers
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 10½	Tls. 73½, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 285, buyers
China Provident	\$10	\$9½, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11, buyers
Campbell, M. Co.	all	\$9, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	\$7	\$4, sellers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$24
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$5½, sellers
	\$1	\$5½, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$140, x.d.
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	
Cigar Companies—		
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Alhambra, Ltd.	\$50	Nominal

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

2nd January, 1909.

COMPANY.	PAID UP	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$850, sales
National of China...	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 175, sellers
	T125	
Insurance—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$810, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 100, buyers
Yangtze Assocn.	\$60	\$180, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$105, sales
Shipping—		
Indo-China	{ pref. } { def. }	{ Tls. 38, sellers { £10
Shell Trans.	{ ord. }	{ £28.0, sellers { £1
S'hai Tug & L.	{ pref. }	{ £9.10, sellers { 10
Lighter	{ ord. }	{ Tls. 47½, sales { T50
Taku Tug & Lighter	{ pref. }	{ Tls. 51½, buyers { T50
Kochien Transportation & Tow Boat		Tls. 48, nom.
	T50	Tls. 50, nom.
Docks & Wharves—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 77½, ex div.
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 140, ca. sel.
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, nom.
Sugar Companies—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 95, sales
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining—		
Raub Australian	{ £1 } { 18/10 }	{ \$7½, sales { Tls. 17½, buyers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	£1	
Lands—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 120, buyers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$93, nom.
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104, nom.
Wei-hai-wei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 101, buyers
Cotton—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 77½, ca. buy.
International	T75	Tls. 70, buyers
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 73½, c. buy.
Soy Chee	T50.0	Tls. 285, buyers
Industrial—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 120, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50, nom.
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, nom.
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 37½, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 45, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 860, ca. sal
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 125, buyers
S'hai Waterworks	T20	T. 437½, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement	50	\$25, nom.
Tile Works	50	Tls. 61, buyers
Kalumpung Rubber	50	Tls. 90, sellers
S. E'her Estates	T100	
Eastern Fibre	\$10	
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	£9.10, buyers
Miscellaneous—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$21, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$52, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$14½, buyers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$45, sales
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$25, sellers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16½, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$9, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel Co.	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazar	T50	Tls. 42½, sales
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
China Im. & Ex. Lumber	T100	Tls. 60, buyers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	Tls. 83, sellers
Dallas Horse Repository	T50	\$22, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of Shanghai in their Share Report for the week ending January 7th, 1909, state:—Since our last issue for the week ending December 23, the Stock Exchange has been closed for the Christmas and New Year Holidays from December 25 to January 4, and therefore there is little business to report. Bank.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks.—We hear of a transaction at \$850. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/3½. Insurance.—North-China Ins Co.—A transaction is reported at Tls. 100. Yangtze Insurance Association shares are in demand, and the rate has improved to \$180. Shipping.—Shanghai Tug and Light Ord. shares have changed hands at Tls. 47½. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co.—Business has been done for cash at Tls. 77½ ex dividend, and Tls. 80 for March. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves.—Sales have been made for March at gradually declining rates from Tls. 144 to Tls. 140. Sugar Cos.—Perak shares have improved to Tls. 95. Mining.—There is no business reported. Lands. Shanghai Land Investment shares are in demand at Tls. 120. Anglo-French Lands are wanted at Tls. 101. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons. There are buyers of cash shares at Tls. 78, and transactions have taken place for March at Tls. 80, Tls. 80½, and 81. At the close we quote sellers at Tls. 81½. International are wanted at Tls. 70 for cash. Laou Kung Mow have improved to Tls. 74 for cash and Tls. 76½ for March. Maatschappij, etc. in Langkat. Sales are reported at Tls. 860 for cash and the March rate declined from Tls. 915 to Tls. 900 closing with sellers. Kalumpung Rubbers. There are buyers at Tls. 61 for cash. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. Shares have been placed at £6.10/- Miscellaneous.—There are no changes of any importance and rates will be found below. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Municipal Six per cent Deb's have been dealt in at Tls. 104½. Shanghai Gas Six per cent Debts.—A sale is reported at Tls. 102.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, January 18th

LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	224
Credits 4 months' sight	229
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	183
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133½
Bank, on demand	134½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	133½
Bank on demand	134½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	87½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	87½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	76½
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	107½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	11½ p.o. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	11½ p.o. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	86½
OVERSEAS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.05
GOLD LEAF 100 fine, per tael	\$58.50
100 SILVER per oz	24½

FREIGHT.

Hankow, 7th Jan.—Per Conference Steamers, To London and Northern Continental ports 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre 45/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez) General Cargo 30/- per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (via Suez), Tea 37/6 per ton of 40 cft. plus river freight. To New York (Overland) per carload; Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; less than carload Tea G. \$1½ cents per lb gross; plus river freight. To Shanghai:—Tea and General Cargo, Tls. 1.60 at 1.80 per ton, weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

January:—

ARRIVALS.

7, Fooksang, British str., from Singapore.
 7, Kissahe Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 8, Assaye, British str., from Shanghai.
 8, Capri, Italian str., from Singapore.
 8, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.
 8, Drufar, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 8, Fukura Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 8, Johanne, German str., from Swatow.
 8, Tamsui, British str., from Chefoo.
 8, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 8, Tenyo M., Jap. str., from San Francisco.
 8, Ulv, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
 8, Zweena, British str., from Samarang.
 9, Benlarig, British str., from Singapore.
 9, Hakuto Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 9, Kutsang, British str., from Moji.
 9, Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.
 9, Putsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
 9, Tungshing, British str., from Wuhu.
 10, Bujun Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 10, Chunsang, British str., from Hongay.
 10, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.
 10, Eastern, British str., from Sydney.
 10, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
 10, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 10, Lianshing, British str., from Weihaiwei.
 10, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
 10, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.
 10, Theseus, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, Awa Maru, Japanese str., from London.
 11, Glenearn, British str., from Shanghai.
 11, Idomeneus, Br. str., from Singapore.
 11, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 11, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 11, Kweilin, British str., from Wuhu.
 11, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 11, Loosok, German str., from Hoihow.
 11, Tango Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
 11, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 12, Arabia, German str., from Portland.
 12, Ariaki Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 12, Ceylon Maru, Japanese from Kobe.
 12, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
 12, Derfflinger, German str., from Yokohama.
 12, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 12, Mario, German str., from Rangoon.
 12, Nanchang, British str., from Chefoo.
 12, Nile, British str., from Yokohama.
 12, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
 12, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 12, Victoria, Swedish str., from Sebatik.
 13, Amigo, German str., from Haiphong.
 13, Andalusia, German str., from Singapore.
 13, Gerd, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 13, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.
 13, Hanqi, French str., from K. C. Wan.
 13, John Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 13, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
 13, Luetzow, German str., from Singapore.
 13, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 13, Shantung, British str., from Sourabaya.
 14, Hopsang, British str., from Samarang.
 14, Istria, German str., from Shanghai.
 14, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.

January:— DEPARTURES.

8, Chenan, British str., for Shanghai.
 8, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Indrawadi, British str., for New York.
 8, Knivsberg, German str., for Haiphong.
 8, Newchang, British str., for Chihkiang.
 8, Prinz Sigismund, German str., for Kobe.
 8, Tingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 8, Wakamiya M., Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 8, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
 9, Assaye, British str., for Europe, &c.
 9, Deucalion, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, G. Apcar, British str., for Singapore.
 9, Kalgan, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Kenkon Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 9, Minnesota, American str., for Shanghai.
 9, Mongolia, Am. str., for San Francisco.
 9, Rajan, German str., for Bangkok.
 9, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 9, Taishun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 10, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 10, Derwent, British str., for Saigon.
 10, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Hong Wan I, British str., for Amoy.
 10, Kansu, British str., for Shanghai.
 10, Prosper, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 10, Yafshing, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Awa Maru, Japanese str., for Yokohama.
 12, Chunsang, British str., for Singapore.

12, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 12, Eastern, British str., for Moji.
 12, Fiume, German str., for Hongay.
 12, Fooksang, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Glenearn, British str., for London.
 12, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Idomeneus, British str., for Shanghai.
 12, Kiangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
 12, Kowloon, German str., for Chinkiang.
 12, Mandasan Maru, Jap. str., for Tsingtau.
 12, Onsang, British str., for Kobe.
 12, Shansi, British str., for Tsingtau.
 12, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 12, Theseus, British str., for Singapore.
 12, Tientsin, British str., for Sourabaya.
 13, Bujun Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 13, Derfflinger, German str., for Europe.
 13, Fukura Maru, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
 13, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Johanne, German str., for Hoihow.
 13, Kiukiang, British str., for Ningpo.
 13, Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.
 13, Nile, British str., for Singapore.
 13, Orange Branch, British str., for Karatsu.
 13, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 13, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 13, Ulv, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
 13, Wosang, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Yerimo Maru, Jap. str., for Anping.
 13, Zweena, British str., for Cheribon.
 14, Capri, Italian str., for Singapore.
 14, Ceylon Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 14, Chipshing, British str., for Shanghai.
 14, Kissahe Maru, Jap. str., for Takao.
 14, Loosok, German str., for Bangkok.
 14, Luetzow, German str., for Shanghai.
 14, Mathilda Korner, German str., for Moji.
 14, Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per *Istria*, from Shanghai, Mr Hansen.
 Per *Kumsang*, from Singapore, Mr Lilbards.
 Per *Tjimahi*, from Macassar, Mr J. N. Cabos.
 Per *Shaohsing*, from Shanghai, Mr D. Martin.
 Per *Joshin Maru*, from Tamsui, Mr F. A. Richards.
 Per *Kwongsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Mrs and Miss Lesk and infant, and Mr V. E. Vieg.
 Per *Haiyang*, from Coast Ports, Mr and Mrs Lecomte, Rev. Holham, Messrs E. Thomas and Forbes.
 Per *Tango Maru*, from Japan, &c., Miss S. Izumida, Messrs D. B. Mackie, W. B. Milne, C. Matsuda, P. de Angelis, A. Seamer, S. Tsuji and K. Naruse.
 Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Mr and Mrs G. N. Lamb, Mr and Mrs L. M. Smith, Mr and Mrs Petersen, Mrs N. Davies, Lieut. S. L. Jordan, Messrs O. H. Fernandez, F. M. Smith, W. B. Knight and Dempster.
 Per *Eastern*, from Australian Ports, &c., Mr and Mrs W. J. Schutt, Mr and Mrs A. C. Ferguson, Mrs J. J. Raffarty and child, Mrs A. Wislizenus and child, Miss Maria Amelia, Messrs E. D. Rien, J. C. Brown, G. Brown, F. de M. Moura, N. T. da Rosa, J. Aniceto, A. Signera, D. P. Caelho, A. A. Almirda, J. Daskalos and M. A. Robinson.
 Per *Assaye*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr and Mrs Harry Jones, Messrs Bernstein, Morris and Lock Tresor; for Singapore, Mr and Mrs J. R. L. Calder and infant, and Mr Cornish; for Bombay, Mr Diushawjee; for Port Said, Mr Cobb; for London, Mr R. MacDonald; from Yokohama, for Singapore, Mr A. S. N. Kemp; for London, Miss Alston, Miss Hunter, Miss H. Hunter and Mr Cohen Lewis; for Port Said, Mrs S. E. Morss and Miss Morss.
 Per *Nile*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Mr S. R. Carlli; from Shanghai, Mrs A. Harsen, Messrs S. Seth and W. R. Brandt; from Yokohama, for London, Mrs Luarmonth and Miss King; for Marseilles, Miss Jacques; from Kobe, for Singapore, Mr J. Sutter; for London, Mrs Gramatsky, Messrs L. D. Willcox and Hunter; for Marseilles, Miss Willmich; for New York, Mr and Mrs Duncan Gay; from Shanghai, for Penang, Miss Rayner; for London, Mr and Mrs Robertson, Mr and Mrs Mither, child and infant, Mrs J. Innocent and child, Miss Spicer, Miss Whittey, Miss Saltmarsh, Dr. Giel, Messrs Phunhi, Hampson and Fisher; for Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Tomalin, Master and Miss Wright.

Per *Fooksang*, from Singapore, Dr. and Mrs. Annerley, Mrs. Priteon and son, and Messrs. Phillips and Avery.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Misses Watkins and O'Sullivan, Rev. Douspis, Messrs Osborne and Wilson.

Per *Derfflinger*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs H. Burgmann, C. Haas and T. Y. Roy; from Nagasaki, Mrs Hardie, Messrs A. Campbell and W. Stein; from Shanghai, Mr and Mrs du Bois Reymont, Mr and Mrs Bushnell Hart, Mr and Mrs M. Marguis, Mrs Walker, Miss A. Altshouler, Messrs C. Esdale, G. Peterhansel, F. Höhuke, Alexander, W. E. Kent, and M. H. Gault.

DEPARTED.

Per *Nile*, for Singapore, &c., Mr and Mrs Nutter child and infant, Mr and Mrs Lethem, Mr and Mrs Tomlin, Mr and Mrs Higby and son, Mr and Mrs Robertson, Mrs Innocent and child, Mrs Learmouth, Mrs Grimilyky, Miss Jaques, Miss Saltmarsh, Miss Willemek, Miss Wright, Miss King, Miss Rayner, Dr. Giel, Lt. Isaacson, Master Wright, Messrs Willcox, Fisher, Plumb and Hampson.

Per *Minnesota*, for Seattle, &c., Rev. and Mrs J. N. Anderson and child, Rev. and Mrs J. R. Sanders and child, Mrs Taguchi, Mrs Pretions and child, Miss Ida Thompson, Miss A. Van Scoy, Dr. A. C. Solman, Rev. J. H. Evans, Rev. E. H. Wilbur, Rev. J. P. Anderson, Master Stanley Anderson, Messrs H. P. Madar, A. E. Dowler, John Sloman, A. H. S. Basto, A. J. Basto, F. Souza and Fourmann.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr and Mrs A. Heise and 2 children, Mrs Vitas Kamacho & daughter, Mrs T. Layard, Miss M. Higford, Miss J. Sharp, Miss J. T. Layard, Dr. F. Martin, Dr. A. Razlag, Master J. F. Asin, Messrs J. Yates, G. Briston, F. W. Daniel, T. S. Domingo, A. Pueo, D. E. Blake, Chas. N. Lindsay, N. D. Percival, W. Hendrick, A. P. Tigh, Wm. Quinn, T. B. Morrie, Kurt Bernstein, E. A. Smith, U. Jila and D. Avery.

Per *Mongolia*, for Shanghai, &c., Mr and Mrs J. H. Scott and maid, Mr and Mrs M. Fisher, Mr and Mrs F. W. Woody Valpy, Mrs Chas. C. Cohn and infant, Mrs. H. B. McCulloch, Mrs F. F. Wright, Mrs C. Hildebrand and infant, Miss Irene K. Dickson, Miss Ada T. Rhodas, Messrs W. C. Smith, J. B. Keys, P. H. and B. E. Moore, Cecil Brown, C. J. Cribbs, P. M. Caldwell, C. P. Spencer Smith, C. Scott, Joseph A. Christinson, Lippert, W. Burns, J. Bliss, H. L. Baggerly, P. Flaherty, J. Couris, N. Williams, H. Heilmuller, R. McArdle, G. Graney, H. Daneig, W. Deveraux, Shaminsky, J. Delehanty, G. Hildebrand and Fuks.

Per *Derfflinger*, for Bremen, Mr and Mrs A. C. Benecke, Mr and Mrs J. de Boer, Mr and Mrs S. Buckingham, Mr and Mrs Chester, Mr and Mrs C. M. McElroy, Mr and Mrs Gibson, child and gouvernante, Mr and Mrs Hoyer, Mr and Mrs S. Hawland, Baron and Baronin von Koenig, Mr and Mrs McKee, Mr and Mrs H. Loehlein, Mr and Mrs Percival, Mr and Mrs James J. Peterson, Mr and Mrs Smith, Mr and Mrs C. C. Schafer and child, Mr and Mrs C. M. Lacey Sites, Mr & Miss J. F. C. Farquahr, Prof. Dr. and Mrs Hugo von Tschudi, Mrs Kr. Wilhelm de Bary, Mrs Admiral Coeaper, Mrs R. F. Frere, Mrs S. P. Hegan, Mrs F. C. Macauley, Mrs Pharo and 2 children, Mrs E. Sites, Miss S. A. Aldridge, Miss F. A. Britton, Miss Bundschuh, Miss Calvert, Miss Farrell, Miss C. Hoyer, Miss Hawland, Miss G. F. Ogier, Miss M. Ogier, Miss H. D. Osborne, Miss Sites, Miss Volkmann, Captain J. See Behring, Rev. L. Buhn, Rev. H. Kuhn, Messrs Boas, McBain, W. H. Burr, P. C. Bruyn, Bromley, Beninga, de Boscheve, F. Beyer, McCobb, G. Croft, Dennys, Denechaw, T. Davidson, Oberstltnt v. Etzel, Hans Fisher, F. Goldstuecker, F. W. Godding, Giesebrecht, S. J. Hartley, Prof. Koeppling, M. E. Kitmann, D. R. McKenzie and family, Jan. te Lythoff, H. L. McLaurin, C. A. Mye, J. Magnes, Manning, Raab, C. F. W. Roth, S. W. Robert, Ritzmann, Mittelsten Scheid, J. Geo. Scott, Shicke, Tokutaro Sakai, Scharffe, Trebing, S. G. Upston, van Unrova, Volkmann and family, Ed. Wendorff, E. Wendorff and Th. Wroe.

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